

WINTERIZE IRRIGATION SYSTEM

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So it is getting to that time of year again.... We all know the one, it is called Cold Temperatures... Which means it is time to think about Winterizing your Irrigation Pumps.

So here is a quick guide to help save some money come springtime.

If you have an Inground Pump then you are good to go. No action should be required.

For everyone else this is for you.

Above Ground Pumps

Either wrap them in a Blanket or better yet

1. Turn off power to the pump at the breaker box
2. Drain Pump (if you have a spicket/faucet attached then open the faucet and let water drain. If NOT then go to your Irrigation Controller and turn it on, this will allow water/pressure to drain from the pump.
3. At the controller, run each station in manual mode briefly to help remove water from the lines.
4. On or near the bottom of the bell housing attached to the pump you will find a metal plug. Sizes vary but most are 1/2 inch or 9/16 either Square or Hex Head. Use the proper wrench to remove the plug (pliers and adjustable wrenches are bad) so the pump can drain. If you forgot to follow steps 1 or 2, you will now have to participate in the grand game of searching for the plug that shot across the yard, plus I need a towel).
5. Recommend you store the plug under the pump motor as you will need it come spring.
6. At the in-ground head controllers (*with the green caps*), open all valves so that air can travel through the lines.

Feel free to contact me or your neighbors for help.

And a little historical fact from last year.... I personally repaired over 10 pumps that had frozen due to the cold, causing the bell housings to crack costing the home owners 300 - 500 on average..... It's your call

You will need the following items to winterize your sprinkler pump:

- Wrench
- Spray gasket lubricant
- Trash bag

Follow these steps to winterize your sprinkler pump

1. Clean the Pump Housing
 - a. Shut off the water to the sprinkler pump.
 - b. Remove the cover from the pump housing.
2. Remove the Water from Sprinkler Lines
 - a. Without reconnecting the pump to the water, turn the pump on for one or two minutes, or until all of the water has been pumped out of the sprinkler lines.
 - b. Watch the lines carefully to make sure you turn the pump back off as soon as you see there is no more water coming out. You want to get as much water out of the lines as possible to prevent the water from freezing while inside the pipes and causing damage to the pump.
3. Drain the Pump and Pump Lines
 - a. Disconnect the discharge line from the sprinkler pump so the remaining water can drain out of the pump.
 - b. Remove the inlet line that goes into the pump and drain the water from that end as well.
 - c. Using a wrench, open the drain valve on the bottom of the pump. You will leave it like this through the winter.
4. Lubricate the Pump and the Cover
 - a. Once all water has been drained from the pump, spray all gaskets with lubricant.
 - b. Check the pump for damage to gaskets. If any gaskets show signs of wear or tearing, it is a good idea to replace the gasket(s) before storing the pump for the winter.
 - c. Replace the pump housing.
 - d. Cover the pump with a trash bag to prevent new moisture from getting into the pump during the winter.