



Here are tips and guidelines to winterize irrigation systems.

**STEP 1:** Shut off the water source to the irrigation system

**STEP 2:** Drain the System

1. Manually open valves and cocks at backflow preventer to drain water.
2. Manually open all system drains and evacuate water, close when complete.

**STEP 3:** Air blow out

1. Close valves to isolate backflow preventer.

**Caution:** do not allow compressed air to travel through backflow preventer, this may permanently damage the valve.

2. Use correctly sized air compressor

- Size: Select an air compressor with higher flow rate (cubic feet per minute or cfm) and lower pressure (psi) to protect the irrigation system (10-25 cfm typical).
- Air Pressure: 80 psi max for PVC and 50 psi max for Poly pipes.

3. Connect compressor to downstream side of backflow preventer.

**Caution:** Never run compressor without at least one zone open.

4. Blow out each zone individually

- Open valves electrically. Manual bleed is acceptable if valves fail to open with air.
- Blow out sprays and rotors until misting/fogging.
- Remove drip fittings before blowing out drip systems.

**Caution:** do not exceed 1-2 minutes of continuous blowout on any zone as this may permanently damage sprinklers and valves.

### Additional Steps

1. Leave all manual valves approximately 1/2 open when winterization process is complete.
2. Leave controller on, if possible, through winter to:
  - Maintain programming
  - Reduce condensation inside the controller
  - Cycle solenoids to prevent sticking