




TORO®

# HOW TO GET YOUR HOME IRRIGATION SYSTEM READY FOR WINTER PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT WITH PROPER CARE AND PREPARATION



**W**inter inevitably comes each year, and whether you're in a mild climate or extreme climate, fall is the time to make sure your home irrigation systems are ready for the change in season.

Home irrigation systems are an investment that requires seasonal maintenance – and it's more than just a system blow out. Though flushing your irrigation system is an important element of winter prep, overlooking other tasks puts the effectiveness and longevity of your investment at risk. Protect your system and future landscape by taking these steps to prepare for winter.

## FALL HOME IRRIGATION MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

- **Adjust Your Watering Schedule:** As temperatures go down, you may need to be watering less. Evaluate your current conditions and adjust your watering times and schedule to conserve water and lower your water bill. Reducing runtimes or setting up an alternate schedule for the change in seasons is easy with a smart controller, such as the Toro EVOLUTION®. This controller can apply reduced runtimes across an entire schedule or individual stations, or it can be used to add completely separate schedules that you change to when the time comes each year.

Either way, it's an easy, efficient option to adapt your watering schedule with the seasons.

- **Care for New Plants:** Continue caring for newly planted landscapes, ensuring newly planted trees and shrubs get good soaks of water as winter approaches. This is crucial for their health in the years to come.
- **Install a Freeze Sensor:** Running an irrigation system when it's too cold can cause damage to your system. The Irritrol® Rain Freeze Sensors offers freeze detection that will prevent your irrigation system from running as temperatures approach freezing, offering peace of mind and protecting your investment.
- **Flush Your Irrigation System:** If you live in a colder climate, contact a local irrigation pro to coordinate having your irrigation system flushed. This protects your system from freezing, to avoid cracked pipes and damaged sprinklers.
- **Protect Pressure Valves:** In addition to flushing your irrigation system, in colder climates you may also need to give pressure valves some extra attention. If valves are left with any water in them, they can freeze and crack. Make sure pressure valves are completely drained and consider insulating them for added protection.
- **Store Hoses and Equipment:** Take care of all the other watering elements you use to keep your landscape happy and healthy. Completely drain all hoses, hose splitters and watering accessories. Store these items in a dry place, ideally where they will not freeze over the winter. Don't forget to turn off your outside water line.

## THINK AHEAD

In addition to the fall maintenance checklist, autumn is also the perfect time to start thinking ahead and plan for next year. While it's still fresh in your mind, consider what you would like to upgrade. Do you want to change elements in your system? Are there ways you can water more efficiently?

Take time to think about what you'd like to prioritize now, so that when spring comes around again, you'll be ready to take action and help your landscape flourish.

If all this seems too daunting or you aren't sure where to start, contact a local irrigation pro to help you make sure your system is safe and secure this winter.

