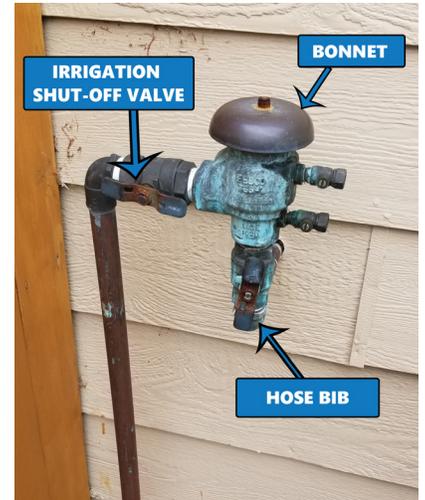


# BACKFLOW PREVENTER MAINTENANCE AND TIPS

## What is a Backflow Preventer?

**Backflow preventers are also known as pressure vacuum breakers.**

Your backflow allows water to flow from your household water supply to fill your sprinkler system, and prevents water from flowing from your sprinkler system back into your household water supply. This prevents fertilizer, chemicals and residual water that seep into your sprinkler heads from flowing back into your household water supply.



**Backflow Preventer**

*\*not all backflow preventers have hose bibs attached\**

## Winterizing Your System

Freezing temperatures can cause pipes and your backflow preventer to freeze and burst. We recommend the following steps to winterize your home:

- 1** Blow out your sprinkler system, drain excess water from the backflow preventer and shut off the irrigation supply valve in the fall. See valve information at the bottom of this page.
- 2** Detach all hoses from outside spigots. Use the indoor shut-off valve that connects to the external pipes to shut off and drain all water that leads to the outside faucets. This indoor valve is typically found in the basement. Turning off all water that runs outside the house reduces the chance of water freezing in the pipes.
- 3** Insulate pipes in your crawl spaces, attics, and basements. Exposed pipes are the most susceptible to freezing. The more insulation you use, the better protected your pipes will be. Seal leaks that allow cold air near your pipes.

## What is an Irrigation Supply Valve?

An irrigation supply valve is a handle or knob on the water line in your house that opens and closes the water supply to your irrigation system. This supply valve is generally located on a lateral pipe that leads away from the main vertical supply pipe. The line should be shut off and winterized before freezing weather in order to prevent water from freezing and cracking your irrigation equipment.



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