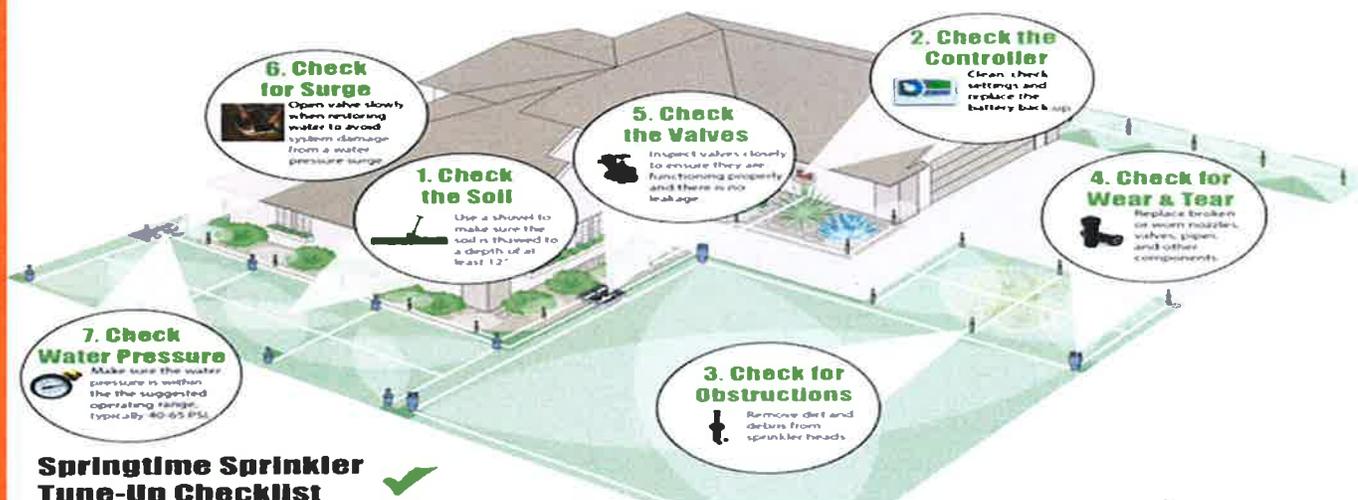


Springtime Sprinkler Tune-Up Checklist

As the temperatures warm and the lawn and garden begins to thaw, there is no better time than springtime to make sure your automatic sprinkler system is ready for another season of efficient lawn and garden watering. Just a few simple steps will go a long way towards saving water, money and preventing a mid-summer landscape catastrophe at home. Get the warm watering season off to a great start with the following tips:



Springtime Sprinkler Tune-Up Checklist

Make Sure Spring Has Sprung...

Although all signs might be pointing to the arrival of spring, the soil beneath the landscape is always the last to thaw. Starting your sprinkler system while the ground is still frozen can result in damage to the pipes.

Regain Control...

Run a check of the irrigation controls and programs. Replace the back-up battery in the timer/controller every 6 months. Times can reset to factory settings if the battery backup is not installed with a fully charged battery resulting on irrigating daily.

Unobstructed Flow...

Check for rocks, dirt, sand and other types of debris that may block the even flow of water from sprinkler heads. Uneven distribution can allow too much water in some areas and not enough in others, both resulting in an unhealthy landscape and wasted water. Inspect spray heads and make sure they haven't become buried and debris has not accumulated around them during the winter.

Out with the old...

Nozzles and sprinkler heads are designed to withstand normal wear and tear of irrigation. Replace cracked, chipped or worn components, such as sprinkler heads, nozzles, valves or pipes. A broken sprinkler can significantly increase water consumption, so it is important to check and replace them periodically.

The Heart of the System...

Valves are the heart of any irrigation system. A leaky valve will waste water, and increase your water bill. Visually inspect each valve to make sure they are operating properly. Before turning on any water to the system, make sure all manual drain valves are returned to the closed position.

Pressure Check...

Before you first turn the main water valve on, it is important to verify the water pressure is at a safe operating range for sprinkler systems. A system with too much pressure will result in cracked pipes, burst valves, sprinkler head leaks and inefficient watering. Invest in a water pressure gauge that can be used to measure water pressure in your home and yard.