

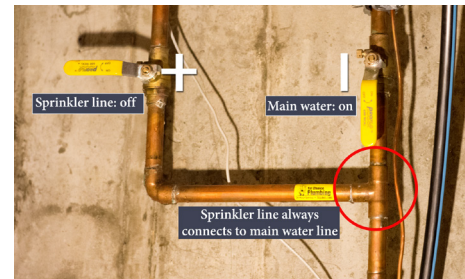


WINTERIZING YOUR SPRINKLER SYSTEM

In order to streamline the sprinkler winterization process, we have put together these simple instructions and produced a short video to help walk you through the steps. By completing Steps 1 – 4 below, you will not need to be home for us to finish winterizing your system. If you are not comfortable completing these steps, contact us so that we can schedule a time to winterize your system. **The video will walk you through each of these steps.**

Tools: Pliers or channel locks; Bucket; Flat-head screwdriver

STEP 1: Locate and shut off the valve for the sprinkler system—this is usually located in your basement and is **always** an offshoot of the main water line for the house. The sprinkler valve will also usually have a small drain stopcock on the side of it to allow you to drain the line from the valve to your backflow (see Step 4). **Shut off this valve and leave it closed.**



STEP 2: Locate the backflow valve outside the house. The sprinkler valve box(es) are usually close to the backflow valve. The backflow is usually the first thing to freeze and break on your sprinkler system, and it is also expensive to repair. Steps 3 and 4 will drain the water from the backflow and protect it against freezing. Your system will not be fully winterized until Step 5 has been completed. **Do not change any valves on the backflow.**

STEP 3: Locate and open the sprinkler valve box(es) outside the house. You may need a tool to open the box. Once the valve box has been opened, locate the drain valve inside the box and **open** this drain valve using your tools and/or fingers so that water begins draining from the backflow. Water should drain from this valve slowly. If water pours out of this valve under pressure, then the sprinkler shutoff valve (Step 1) has not been turned off. **Leave this valve open.**

STEP 4: Return to the sprinkler shutoff valve inside the house. Locate the small stopcock beside the valve, position your bucket beneath the stopcock and partially open it until a stream of water begins flowing into your bucket. The stopcock has a hole in it so that you can direct where the water flows. Use your pliers/channel locks if necessary to open the stopcock. Note that if you take the stopcock completely off, the water stream will shoot out to the side and you will need to reposition your bucket to catch the water—it is best to turn it only slightly so that the water can drain straight down into your bucket. The amount of water you will drain depends entirely on how much pipe is between the shutoff valve and the backflow. It can range from a few ounces to a full bucket. **After the water has completely drained, close the stopcock.**



STEP 5: Contact us to blow out your sprinkler system and to complete the winterization of your system. **Call or text 720.326.9755.**