

## IRRIGATION WINTERIZATION

As we near the end of our landscape season, many of us are enjoying the remaining last few warm days before our winter season sets. Having a beautiful green lawn during these fall days is one source of that enjoyment. But soon the temperatures will dip below that freezing point, and the opportunity for frozen irrigation lines will follow. Repairing or replacing components in the Spring can be a costly endeavor. Performing a proper winterization (aka sprinkler blowout) can help save you dollars, and ensure your irrigation system is ready to go next year when you're ready to once again enjoy those warm, sunny days.

Detailed below is a comprehensive, step by step account of how to winterize your system. Please also refer to the accompanying pictures which identifies some of the components mentioned, to further help clarify how to winterize your irrigation system.

- **Secure air compressor with an output of 50-90 PSI. Anything more than 90 PSI will potential damage the components of your irrigation system**
- **Align compressor within working distance of the backflow assembly (hose length is 20-50ft).**
- **Visually inspect the backflow assembly, identify make model and size and how you are going to hook up (hooking into the canopy, a test cock, blow out port or quick coupler).**
- **Shut off the up leg and down leg ball valves and open test cocks (ball valves are shut when they are perpendicular to piping).**
- **Find point of connection (most often located inside your basement) and turn off**
- **Return to backflow assembly and open both ball valves that had been previously shut off**
- **Return to point of connection and remove drain cap (if equipped) and have bucket and hose on the ready to drain supply line. Leave valve in off position (perpendicular to piping)**
- **Wait for all water to stop flowing**
- **Return to backflow and hook up compressor fittings and hose (generally hook up to Test Cocks and will need proper fittings)**
- **Isolate air flow by shutting the up leg ball valve**
- **Turn on a zone manually from a valve or from the controller**
- **Start your compressor and pressurize the irrigation line slowly (opening the airway to fast will result in broken irrigation components)**
- **As the zones are blowing out watch each zone to ensure the majority of the water is removed from the pipes (2-4 min per zone depending on size) and make sure that all zones come on. Any zones that don't automatically fire need to be turned on manually at the valves.**
- **Record any damages that occur during winterization**
- **As the winterization is wrapping up leave a zone running and shut off the compressor (this lets the remaining air escape the system)**
- **Remove equipment, set both ball valves and all test cocks on the backflow to 45 degree angles (this allows any moisture remaining behind the ball seats to dissipate over time)**
- **Set controller to off position but leave the controller plugged in (continually unplugging the controller causes damage to vital internal components)**
- **Any valves that were opened manually need to be turned back off**

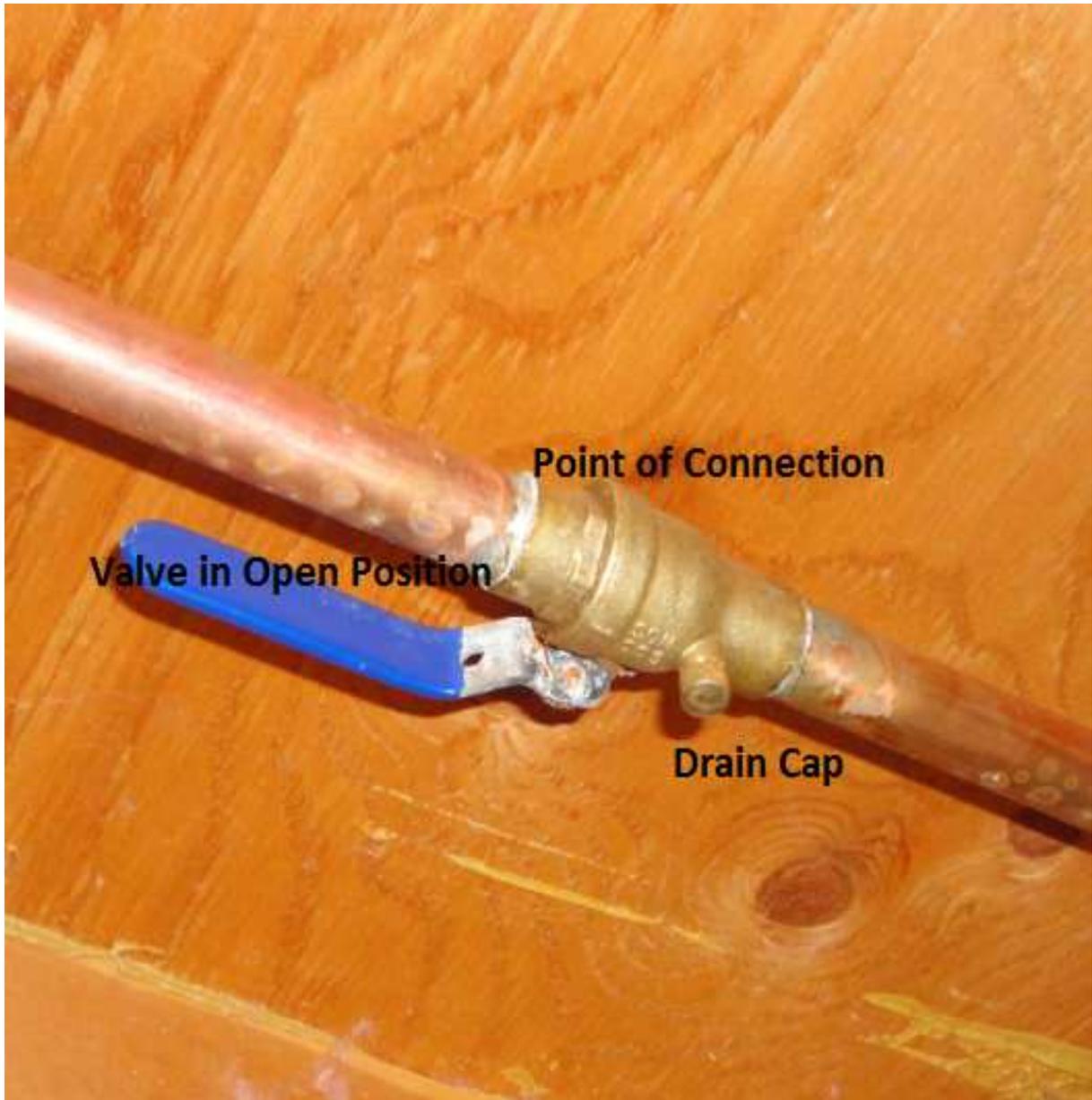
**Your system is now winterized!**



Down-leg Ball Valve

Test Cocks

Up-leg Ball Valve



Point of Connection

Valve in Open Position

Drain Cap