



October 2, 2009

## Tip of the Week

### Protect your sprinkler system from freeze damage

One simple precaution can save you \$100 in sprinkler repairs and a world of grief.



Every year that first early freeze catches homeowners off guard and the most expensive part of their sprinkler system freezes--often causing flooding and water damage. Then there's the repair bill to fix the tiny part that froze.

Protect the most expensive part in your sprinkler system: the backflow prevention device. This component is required on all systems because it keeps the water that's in your sprinkler system from backing up into the domestic water inside the house. It's also the most vulnerable part of your system if there's a freeze. It's usually located somewhere outside the home and next to the foundation.

**This precaution will help protect the backflow** from early freezes and still allow you to run your sprinkler system until it's winterized.

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♣ Wrap the backflow device with a towel which provides insulation.

♣ Then wrap the device and towel with a plastic bag and secure with duct tape. The bag keeps moisture that can freeze out of the device.

**Be ready to take these additional precautions** before winter sets in.

♣ Drain the backflow so there is no water left in the device. If you don't know how to do this, call a pro.

♣ Winterize the system. You won't be able to operate your sprinkler system after draining it, so you are ready for the final step of protection which is having the system winterized by blowing out the lines (pipes) with compressed air.

For help with winterizing your irrigation system to prevent freeze damage, go to [www.alcc.com](http://www.alcc.com) and click on *Find a Pro*.