

# It's Time for Your Irrigation System's Annual Physical

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When you go to the doctor, the heart, brain, and circulation are all evaluated to make sure everything is in good health. Think of your irrigation system in the same manner.



An irrigation system has a brain (the controller), heart (zone valves) and circulatory system (zone lines, main lines and sprinkler heads) that must be maintained for good system health.

If the controller isn't working or set properly, the system incurs extra wear and tear from overuse, potentially resulting in pressurized leaks caused by worn pipes and clogged heads or stuck valves.

Getting a checkup for your in-ground sprinkler system also allows you to see if there are heads that need to be replaced, readjusted or redirected. Just like your annual physical, your irrigation system should be inspected for maintenance issues and efficient settings at least once a year, and even better, once a quarter.

If there are areas in your landscape where irrigation is no longer needed (shady areas), or wasteful spray irrigation in well-established landscape beds, consider capping them off or converting spray irrigation in beds to more efficient drip irrigation. If spray irrigation in grassy areas produce a lot of mist, consider converting those zones to pressure-reducing spray heads for less flow and waste.

Also, if your irrigation system no longer functions, or you just don't want the hassle of maintaining it, it might be a good time to get rid of it completely.

Make sure your irrigation system is healthy, lean and efficient!