ABLE IRRIGATION .com

Underground Lawn Sprinkler Specialists

Winter Shutdown Service

Although we live in Beautiful BC, we still experience freezing temperatures. Annual Winter Shutdown Service is recommended to protect your irrigation system.

To minimize the risk of freeze damage to your irrigation system, you'll need to "winterize" it.

Our service technicians begin during the last week of September through to the first week of November. We will shut off the water flow; remove all standing water from the irrigation pipes, valves, and sprinkler heads, to prevent damage caused by frost and the volume expansion that occurs when water turns to ice. This is done with our suitably sized 185 CFM air compressors.

In order to ensure that we get to all customers before the first cold snap, we ask that you sign up in advance for our Winter Shutdown Service. (no repairs or changes can be made to your system during the winter shutdown season)

Please note: Any system that is leaking badly from the main connection, will be shut down from the main valve if possible. The system will not be winterized. Repairs will be advised and quoted immediately.

Procedure

Using a 185 CFM (cubic foot per minute) air compressor with a PSI of 50-80 attach to the mainline via a quick coupler, hose bib or other type connection, which is located downstream of the backflow device.

** Please note: if the connection is before or upstream of the backflow device, this is considered a "cross connection" and is not to code. A cross connection is a situation where contaminants from the irrigation system can backflow into the potable water. Any cross connection must be noted and reported to the owner for retrofitting, repair and testing.**

info@ableirrigation.com www.ableirrigation.com

Able Irrigation Ltd.
9449 – 148A Street
Surrey, BC V3R 8E2

Off: 604 584-7676
Fax: 604 584-6776

Underground Lawn Sprinkler Specialists

Winter Procedure con't

To start the "blow out", shut off the irrigation water supply and open the drain on the supply line. Once the line is drained, close the drain and proceed to connect the air line. With the compressor valve in the closed position, attach the air compressor hose to the fitting. Activate a station/zone on the controller. If access to the controller is not possible bleed a zone in the field from the first valve box location. Slowly open the valve on the compressor; gradually introduce air into the irrigation system. The air pressure should be constant at 50 PSI. Increase the air if the sprinkler heads do not pop up and seal. Never exceed 80 PSI

Activate each station/zone until no water can be seen exiting the heads. Generally this takes two to four minutes per zone depending on the size of each zone. Cycle back through each zone rather than running longer than 5 minutes.

Compressed air moving through dry pipes can cause friction, which will create heat and the heat could cause damage, so do not run compressed air through dry pipes.

Shut-down the air compressor and release any air pressure that may be present and disconnect the airline. Now winterize the Double Check Valve (dcva) backflow device

- If there IS an isolation valve before the backflow device (dcva) first flush the test cocks #1 and #4,
- (Shut off the #2 shut off valve on the dcva, open #1 shut off valve and the isolation valve, this will allow flushing to occur)
- Now shut off the isolation valve
- Attach the air hose to the number one test cock.
- Open the number one test cock.
- Shut off the number 2 shut off valve on backflow device, then open the number 4 test cock
- Apply compressed air until water is blown out from the device
- Shut off and remove air compressor from the number one test cock.
- Shut off test cock number one and test cock number 4.
- Leave the isolation valve off.

Able Irrigation Ltd.
9449 – 148A Street
Surrey, BC V3R 8E2

Off: 604 584-7676
Fax: 604 584-6776

Underground Lawn Sprinkler Specialists

Winter Procedure con't

- If there is NO isolation valve before the backflow device (dcva) flush all test cocks, in this case, most importantly #2 and #4
- Shut off number 1 valve on dcva backflow device
- Attach the air hose to the number two test cock.
- Open the number two test cock.
- Shut off the number 2 shut off valve on backflow, then open the number 4 test cock
- Apply compressed air until water is blown out from the device
- Shut off and remove air compressor from the number two test cock.
- Shut off test cock number two and test cock number 4.

The controller; if it's outside, leave it plugged in with the power on, the warmth created from the transformer will keep the internal components dry. Leave the controller in the off position so that the solenoid valves in the field are not activated. Make note to client as to whether or not a surge protector is present. Surge protectors help prevent damage during power outages.

If the controller is mounted indoors, leave the power on and the switch to off OR remove the battery backup and unplug the transformer. Recommended for older model controllers that do not have built in surge protection.

The Rain Sensor can be prepared for winter if it is the cup design, remove standing water and place a plastic bag over it. This will help keep out water that could freeze and crack the cup.
Disconnect power to the pump (if applicable) and open the lower drain plug to fully drain chamber.
Please make notes and references as to repairs that are needed in the spring.

**Remember to practice caution when operating any motorized equipment, do not stand over parts while the system is being blown out and do not exceed 80 psi with pvc piping and 50 psi for polyethylene piping. Do not leave manual drain valves, or valve bleed cocks/solenoids open after the winter service.