

Spring Start-Up and Flushing Process

Spring start-up is just as important as winterization, but often neglected or shortened. Over winter many things get into the system, and need to be pushed or flushed out.

- 1) When the sprinkler system is turned back on in the spring, the first step should be to flush it out. Remove all nozzles from sprinklers, or at least from the last head on each zone. Turn the water on. When you think the water has run long enough, you're only half way done. Let it run twice that long! The biggest mistake in flushing is not letting the water run long enough.
 - a. When done, make sure that standing water doesn't drain back into the pipes, taking dirt back in with it! You may need to put a temporary piece of hose or pipe onto the flush outlet to drain the water to a different area. Make sure the hose is as big or bigger than the pipe, you don't want to restrict the flow.
- 2) After flushing, reinstall all nozzles and replace all broken ones. Check the system by running it again. Look for clogged emitters or nozzles and replace.
- 3) Check for leaking valves. Often the flexible seals dry out over the winter and leak when the water is turned back on.

Check the controller for proper run times for each station. If it has a back-up battery, replace it with a fresh one.