

## Suggestions to Protect Your Sprinkler System from the Damaging Effects of a Freeze



1. Shut your water to the sprinkler system off. The shut off valve is usually located in your basement.



2. Most shut off's have a drain cap underneath. After you have turned the shut off to the "off" position, place a bucket underneath and open the small drain cap to allow water to drain back.

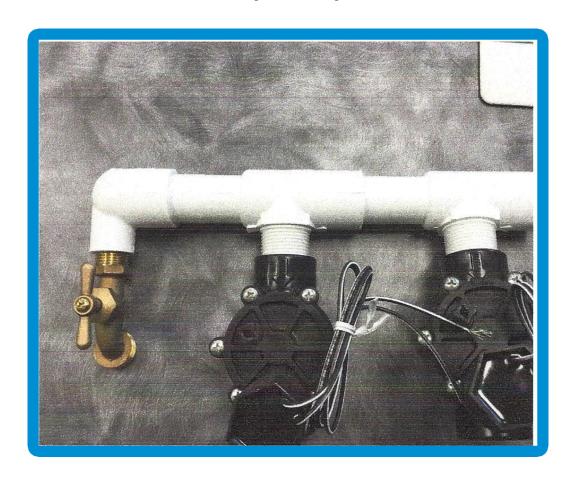


3. After steps 1 and 2, go outside to your pressure vacuum breaker (PVB, Backflow) and turn the handles to a 45 degree angle as shown in the picture below. You can also turn the screw slots on the test cocks 45 degrees. Once you open the test cocks it will start draining water back into the bucket inside.



4. Most backflows have a drain elbow under them. Remove the cap and make sure the gasket comes with it. Put the cap in a safe place where you can find it in the spring.

- 5. After all these steps are completed, insulate the backflow from where it comes out of the wall all the way to the ground. We suggest using something big and bulky like an old sleeping bag or blanket. Cover everything with a garbage bag and tape it on.
- 6. Go to your manifold box (the box in the ground with the green lid), open the lid and look for a drain (usually located at the end of the row of electric valves). Open the drain if you have one, let the water out, and then close it back up. It is very important to put the lid back on the manifold box securely after you have done this.



\*Photos are examples that are placed to provide guidance, your system may vary.