

Sprinkler Blowout Checklist — Denver, CO

Calaway Sprinkler • 720-737-6936 • calawaysprinklers.com

Print this page or save it to your phone. It is the same sequence we follow on a residential blowout in Denver and along the Front Range, so you know what should happen before, during, and after service.

BEFORE THE APPOINTMENT

- ☐ **Know where your main irrigation shut-off is**
Usually in the basement, crawlspace, or an outdoor vault. Clear anything stacked in front of it.
- ☐ **Locate the backflow assembly and controller**
Unlock gates, move planters, and make sure the timer is reachable and powered.
- ☐ **Turn off any automatic watering programs**
Set the controller to off or rain so a zone does not start mid-service.
- ☐ **Note problems from the season**
Dry corners, misting heads, a zone that never ran right — mention them at the visit.
- ☐ **Pick the right window: late September through October**
The system should be dry before overnight lows sit below freezing several nights in a row.

DURING THE BLOWOUT

- ☐ **Supply isolated and pressure relieved**
Main irrigation valve closed, pressure bled off, backflow test cocks opened so the assembly is not holding water.
- ☐ **Air introduced downstream of the backflow device**
Never against a live supply — that is how fittings and valves get damaged.
- ☐ **Each zone opened one at a time**
Run until heads go from spray, to mist, to dry air, then rotate and repeat.
- ☐ **Low points and long laterals get a second pass**
Trapped water in low spots is what splits lines over the winter.
- ☐ **Low pressure, high volume**
Roughly 50-80 PSI, kept under the rating of the heads, valves, and fittings. Air volume (CFM) does the work.
- ☐ **Backflow and drains left in winter position**
Above-ground piping drained; drain valves and test cocks set correctly.

AFTER THE BLOWOUT

- ☐ **Controller set to off or rain**
Programs stay saved so spring is a quick reset, not a rebuild.

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☐ **Findings written down**

Weak zones, crooked heads, slow-closing valves — repair list for spring.

☐ **Hose bibs and exterior faucets drained**

Not part of the sprinkler system, but the same freeze risk.

☐ **Book the spring start-up**

Mid-April into May, once sustained hard freezes have passed.

SIGNS WINTERIZATION WAS MISSED

- Cracked or blown-apart sprinkler heads
- Split lateral lines under the lawn
- Leaking or seized zone valves
- A failed backflow prevention assembly
- Low pressure or a zone that will not run at all
- Soggy patches that appear before you ever water

Want it done for you?

Calaway Sprinkler has served 500+ Denver homes since 2017. Hours: Mon-Sat, 8:00am-5:00pm.

Call 720-737-6936

calawaysprinklers.com/services/sprinkler-winterization

NOTES FOR YOUR TECH
