

Ready. Set. Get Your Yard Ready!

Checking your sprinkler system is one of the most important outdoor activities to perform around your home during the spring and summer. This is the time when you want to make sure everything is working correctly and your entire landscape has proper coverage.

One of the most common forms of water waste I observe during my inspections is a sprinkler head with the wrong size spray nozzle on it. Your best bet is to always buy the smallest sprinkler nozzle necessary to cover the nearby watering area.

A spray nozzle is the small part that screws into the stem and distributes the water. They come in all sizes – the larger the area they cover the more water they use. Ask your hired irrigation professional or a store assistant which nozzle is right for you.

Most repairs on sprinkler heads can be done by a homeowner with parts purchased at one of several irrigation supply stores or home improvement stores in Frisco.

Here are a few tips for you as you check your sprinkler system

- Run the test cycle on your sprinkler system. The majority of sprinkler controller have a test cycle mode on the main dial that can be set for 2 minutes. This cycles through each zone and allows enough time for you to spot any problem areas.
- Follow the test cycle run through in your yard and mark the problem areas with a flag or a colored stick in the ground so you can find and fix problems. Common problems include leaky heads, heads that spray too low and bent or crooked heads.
- Check for leaks by watching zones with low pressure very closely. This sometimes indicates a leaky pipe. Also keep an eye out for rapid puddling or ponding in areas where a zone being tested.
- If you notice that a zone does not turn on or that it turns off prematurely, this may require an irrigation professional.

Set your sprinkler controller for spring watering. Watering your landscape once every 7-10 days is probably enough in spring. Short run times, several times throughout your watering day will help the soil absorb all of the water and avoid run off. Remember – every watering day you can skip, or go without watering, can save you an average 1,000 gallons of water.