



## Cut and Cap Policy for Discontinuing Landscape Irrigation

All landscape irrigation (sprinkler) systems must have State-approved backflow prevention installed to protect the public water system from potential contamination, as well as comply with City ordinance and Plumbing code. Backflow prevention assemblies must be tested at the time of installation, after repair or relocation, and at least once annually. Some customers have expressed displeasure with the annual testing requirement for their backflow prevention assembly and have irrigation systems that are no longer operable or just never used.

### Should an Oregon City water customer wish to discontinue use of an irrigation system the following steps can be taken:

- 1) Locate where the irrigation system is connected to the domestic water line to your home. This is typically where the backflow assembly is located (if one is installed).
- 2) **Turn off water to the irrigation system.** Drain any remaining water out of the irrigation system piping. Cut the piping on both sides of the backflow assembly to create a 2 to 3 foot physical separation in the piping, rendering the irrigation system unusable. Remove the backflow assembly. If no backflow assembly is installed, expose the irrigation piping and cut out a 2 to 3 foot section of piping.
- 3) Install caps on both cut ends of piping. The supply side of the irrigation piping should be cut & capped as close to the domestic line as possible to prevent potential water quality issues. Capping the irrigation side will prevent the piping from filling with dirt/debris in case you may want to use the piping again in the future.
- 4) If water was turned off at the water meter you will need to call and have it turned back on. If you turned the water off at the isolation valve, leave this valve permanently closed.
- 5) Prior to covering up the cut piping, contact the Water Quality office at 971-204-4605 or [cc-bpp@orc city.org](mailto:cc-bpp@orc city.org) to arrange an inspection. Water quality staff must verify and document the physical separation in the irrigation piping. This inspection only takes about 5 minutes and if your assembly is located outside can be completed without you present. You will also need to sign a form stating that if the system is ever reconnected, you will reinstall proper backflow protection and notify the City.

**\*\***Some irrigation systems have an isolation valve that can be used to turn water to the irrigation system off, without turning water to your home off. This valve (if present) is usually located near the backflow assembly. If your system does not have an isolation valve you will need to turn the water off at your water meter. Contact the Oregon City Utility Billing office at 503-657-8151 or [ub@orc city.org](mailto:ub@orc city.org) to have the water turned off/on at the water meter.

These steps are provided as a general guideline. Each irrigation system is unique. For specific details or help with this procedure please contact a licensed plumber or landscape professional. Some backflow testers also do removals.



## Public Works - Operations

13895 Fir Street | Oregon City OR 97045  
Ph (971) 204-4605

### MEMORANDUM

To:

From: Water Quality Coordinator

Re: Landscape Irrigation Inoperable – Cut and Capped

Date:

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By signing below we certify that the irrigation system at the address listed below is no longer operational and has been physically separated from the domestic water line. Any associated backflow prevention for irrigation has also been removed.

Further, we will not modify the irrigation system to make it operational without installation of appropriate State-approved backflow prevention and full compliance with Plumbing Code and Oregon City's Cross Connection / Backflow Prevention Program (CC/BPP). We agree to notify Oregon City's Water Quality Department prior to reconnecting the irrigation system. We understand that non-compliance with the CC/BPP will result in discontinuance of water service until compliance is achieved.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this completed form to: CC/BPP, 13895 Fir St. Oregon City, OR 97045 **OR**  
[cc-bpp@orcitizen.org](mailto:cc-bpp@orcitizen.org)

Questions? Contact Water Quality staff at 971-204-4605