# Residential Irrigation Maintenance Checklist

Check an existing residential landscape irrigation system for visible leaks, uneven coverage and scheduling problems. This list covers homeowner observations and manual-approved care, not fire sprinklers, system design or professional backflow testing.

Date / site: _____ Checked by: _____ Zone / follow-up reference: _____

## Before you start

- Find the system and controller manuals, zone map and local watering restrictions. Identify a safe way to stop watering before a test.
- Do not start a frozen, winterized or damaged system. Arrange suitable seasonal startup if its procedure is unknown. Stop for flooding or visible electrical damage.
- Isolate water and automatic operation as directed before maintenance. Leave wiring, buried pipe repairs, pressure changes and required backflow inspection or testing to qualified professionals.

## Prepare the system review

☐ **Identify zones and system components (Essential)**

List the areas served by each zone and locate accessible controllers, shutoffs and visible components. Record unknown areas for the installer rather than guessing.

☐ **Confirm the system is ready for seasonal operation (If Applicable)**

If the system was shut down or winterized.

Check that freezing conditions have passed and any winterization has been properly reversed under the manufacturer or installer procedure. Do not improvise a restart.

☐ **Check controller date, time and active programs (Essential)**

Review current settings and remove unintended duplicate starts. Retain a copy of the intended schedule; follow the manual for any battery maintenance.

## Observe each operating zone

☐ **Run one ready-to-operate zone at a time (Essential)**

Use normal controls for a brief observation and record which heads or emitters operate. Stop the test if flooding, damage or unsafe conditions appear.

☐ **Flag visible leaks and persistent wet spots (Essential)**

Look for broken heads, leaking connections or pooling between cycles. Mark locations and arrange repair; a wet patch alone does not locate an underground leak.

☐ **Check visible sprinkler obstruction and damage (If Applicable)**

If sprinkler heads are installed.

Note tilted, buried, blocked or damaged heads. Clear loose surface debris with watering stopped; follow the manual or use a professional for adjustments and replacement.

☐ **Check spray direction and uneven coverage (If Applicable)**

If sprinkler heads are installed.

Record spray onto paving or buildings, dry areas and excessive misting. Make only manual-approved adjustments with the system stopped; refer persistent coverage or pressure problems for evaluation.

☐ **Observe accessible drip lines and emitters (If Applicable)**

If drip irrigation is installed.

Look for disconnected tubing, leaks and emitters that appear blocked or displaced. Follow component instructions for care; do not assume all emitters have the same output.

☐ **Check accessible filter maintenance requirements (If Applicable)**

If serviceable irrigation filters are fitted.

Follow the manual for isolation and pressure release before servicing accessible filters. Record when cleaning or replacement is needed; do not open an unknown pressurized assembly.

## Review controls and water use

- [ ] **Match watering settings to current conditions (Essential)**

  Review plant needs, soil, recent rain and local restrictions. Avoid a universal runtime; use measured application and local guidance to set the schedule.

- [ ] **Check for runoff during the test (Essential)**

  Record where water leaves the planted area or pools. Reduce avoidable watering and review cycle-and-soak settings where appropriate; fix leaks rather than compensating with more runtime.

- [ ] **Check installed weather or moisture controls (If Applicable)**

  If rain, freeze, weather or soil-moisture controls are installed.

  Use the manual-approved sensor check and review alerts, placement and enabled settings. Do not bypass a fault permanently; arrange service if the control cannot operate correctly.

- [ ] **Confirm backflow service requirements (Essential)**

  Check applicable water-provider requirements and available service records. Arrange required inspection or testing by an appropriately qualified person; this homeowner checklist is not a backflow test.

## Finish and record follow-up

- [ ] **End the test and record unresolved issues (Essential)**

  Restore the intended automatic schedule and confirm test watering has stopped. Record faults, responsible person and follow-up date; repeat the zone observation after repairs and review during the watering season.

## Notes / additional tasks

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