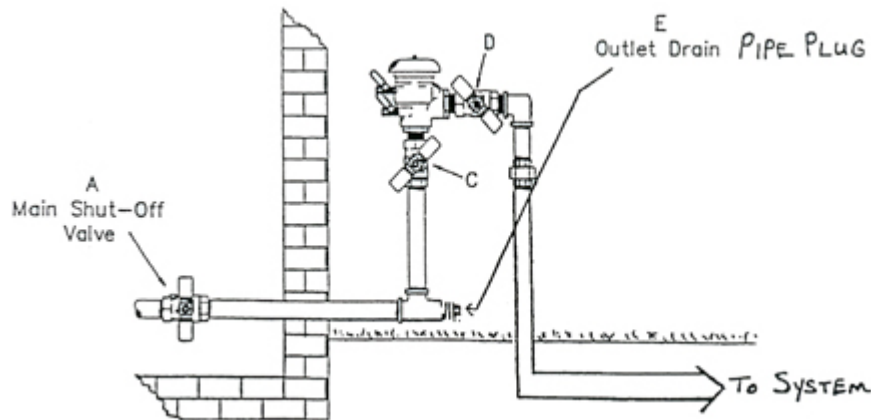


Backflow Preventer Draining Procedure

The backflow preventer is the plumbing device attached to the outside wall of the house and is the source of water to the irrigation system. Because this unit and the copper piping attached to it are exposed to the air, **this unit can freeze and burst** in only a few hours of below freezing temperatures. During the spring and fall, outside temperatures can often dip below freezing during the night. If you see forecast temperatures below 32 degrees, it is important to follow the draining procedure below to prevent costly damage to your system.

1. Turn off main shut-off valve to the system (A), typically in your basement.
2. Remove or open the drain plug (E) on the piping outside.
(You may have a spigot instead of a PLUG)
3. Please tape the PLUG or Spigot to the back flow so we can find it easily in the spring.
4. Turn valves (C) & (D) to a 45 degree angle (half open-half closed) position. Turn test cocks to a horizontal position. *(test cocks= looks like flat head screws)*
5. It is also a good idea to get the water out of the copper down pipe by turning your system "ON" for a minute to suck any water in that down pipe into the ground.
6. If all else fails wrap a heated blanket around your backflow preventer and all exterior plumbing to help prevent freezing.

This procedure will protect your backflow preventer during freezing temperatures either before we winterize your system in the fall or after we start up your system in the spring. Also, follow this same procedure to prepare for your system fall winterizing if you choose not to be at home at the time of this service. Simply leave access to the System Controller and we can take care of the winterizing without the need to enter your home.



If no water comes out of the backflow when you are trying to drain it - that means that it is already frozen - - - you should not leave it frozen - the water inside it will continue to expand and may *burst* the backflow. **To unthaw the backflow** - run your system while slowly dumping 2-6 5 gallon buckets of super hot water over the backflow -once the system is running you know that it is unthawed. Then follow the above procedure for "draining the backflow" **Disclaimer:** We cannot guarantee that this will prevent all freeze damage, especially if you have PVC- that is very fragile and can damage easily.