

## What is drip irrigation?

Drip irrigation is a highly efficient method of watering used to slowly deliver water to plants. By directly targeting plant roots, drip irrigation reduces evaporation and landscape runoff saving you water and cash on summer utility statements.

## When should I use drip irrigation on my landscape?

Drip irrigation can be appropriately used to irrigate any vegetation including turfgrass. It is most commonly installed around trees, shrubs, and perennials to directly target plant roots and keep water off of foliage. When installing drip on your landscape, be sure that the zone excludes overhead spray sprinklers. Including overhead spray and drip on the same zone may lead to overwatering on some parts of your landscape and underwatering on others.

There are two main configurations to consider when designing your dripline. Read below to learn more about which design is best for your landscape:

### Line Source



- Emitters are evenly spaced and embedded inside the tubing, delivering water in a uniform line.
- Line source driplines are designed in grid-like formats to accommodate densely planted areas.

### Point Source



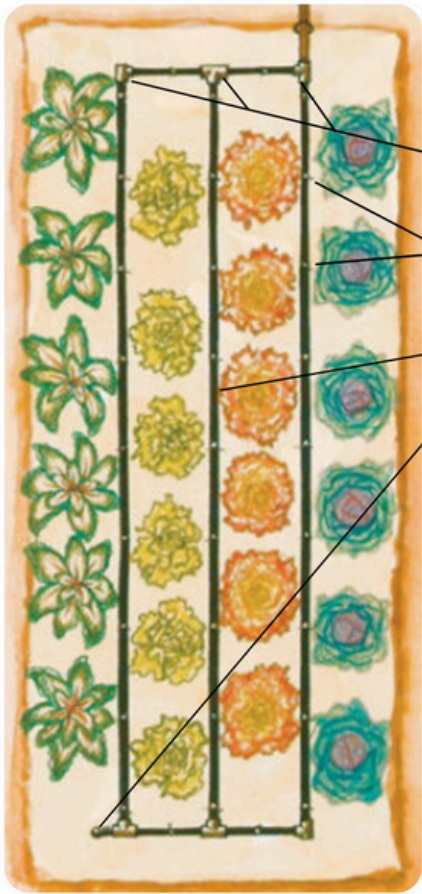
- Emitters and distribution tubing are manually installed on the line to deliver water only where it's needed.
- Works best in less densely planted areas.

## Looking to install drip irrigation on your landscape?

Check out the following page for general guidance on how to complete simple DIY drip installation projects. Whether you're looking to install a new drip zone, convert an existing one, or adapt a dripline to your hose spigot, we're here to provide you with general guidance and tips to make your dripline dreams come true.

**Did you know?** The City of Bozeman offers a rebate of up to \$250 for the installation of drip irrigation equipment. Learn more and access the rebate application by visiting [www.bozemanwater.com](http://www.bozemanwater.com).

## The Basics: Identifying and assembling parts on your drip irrigation system



Before installing, learn the components of a drip irrigation system. Below are some or all of the parts that may be included downstream of your irrigation valve:

**Fitting-** Couplers, tee fittings, and elbow fittings are all used to connect and configure drip tubing. Choose barbed fittings for an extra tight seal.

**Emitter-** Regulates the water delivered from the drip tubing to the plant itself. Choose low volume options that measure flow rate in Gallons Per Hour (GPH).

**Tubing-** Purchase blank or inline tubing to deliver water to your landscape

**End cap or clamp-** These to prevent water from seeping from the end of your dripline.

**Other useful components:**

- **Goof plug-** Use these to plug holes left by emitters you no longer need.
- **Landscape staple-** Keep your dripline firmly tethered to the ground by installing landscape staples around the tubing as needed.

**Don't forget the tools!** Many suppliers carry a variety of tools that help make dripline construction a breeze. Visit your local hardware store to see what tools can assist you with your next project.



## Connecting a new dripline to your hose spigot

No underground irrigation system? No problem! Connect your dripline to a nearby hose spigot.

**To connect a dripline to your hose spigot follow these steps:**

**Step 1:** Design and configure your dripline.

**Step 2:** Attach a filter, pressure regulator, and [WaterSense](#)<sup>®</sup> hose timer (in this order) to your hose spigot.

**Step 3:** Use a drip tubing conversion adaptor to connect your hose timer to your dripline tubing.

**Step 4:** Turn on your system to test for leaks. Be sure that the last emitter on the line receives water before burying with mulch.

## Converting an existing sprinkler zone to drip on your underground irrigation system

Purchase a drip conversion kit from your local hardware store to transform an individual sprinkler head into a drip delivery system. When purchasing a kit, be sure it's compatible with your existing sprinkler model and that it can be supported by your existing irrigation system pressure.

**To connect a dripline to your sprinkler head, follow these steps:**

Step 1: Install your drip conversion kit according to manufacturer instructions. You may wish to convert additional heads, depending on the size of your zone.

Step 2: Cap any remaining non-converted sprinkler heads in the zone. Learn [How to Cap Sprinkler Heads](#).

Step 3: Follow manufacturer instructions to route drip tubing through the converted head(s). Then, configure your new dripline and test it for leaks before burying below a layer of mulch.

## Adding a new drip zone to your underground irrigation system

Adding a new drip zone can be difficult and usually involves work related to your controller, wiring, piping, and valves. For this reason, installing a new drip zone on an existing irrigation system is best left to a professional.