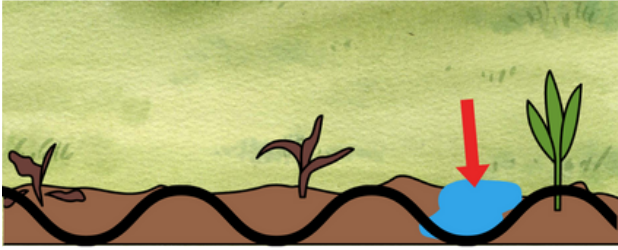


## Repairing Dripline Leaks

### What is causing a dripline leak?

Drip irrigation components can become damaged and begin to leak if exposed to weathering elements or small animals. A leak may also be caused by a puncture to the dripline or a missing/damaged emitter.

### How do I know if my dripline is leaking?



Because driplines are typically buried below a layer of mulch, you may need to gently dig to expose the dripline to locate the origin of the leak. Look for excessively wet areas at or around the dripline - the leak may cause a centralized wet spot on the soil or a more noticeable stream, or 'geyser', of water. You might also be clued in to a dripline leak by observing the plants in your garden. Underwatered plants may show signs of distress.

### How do I repair a dripline leak?

Determine the location of the dripline leak. You will want to fully isolate the leak by accounting for 6-9" of additional dripline length on either side of it.

#### Determine if you need to:

- Replace a leaking emitter
- Eliminate a leaking emitter
- Remove a damaged section of the dripline



#### How to Replace a Leaking Emitter

Follow these instructions to replace an emitter delivering water to a plant:

**Step 1:** Remove the leaking emitter from the dripline.

**Step 2:** Use pliers to firmly grasp the end of a goof plug. Insert the flared end directly into the hole from the removed emitter.

**Step 3:** Use an emitter insert tool to punch a new hole on the line, at least 2" from the goof plug. Then, insert your new emitter.

**Step 4:** Attach 1/4" tubing to the emitter, route it towards the roots of the plant, and cut to length. Install a landscape staple to hold it in place.

**Step 5:** Turn on the zone to ensure your repairs are working properly. If the goof plug is leaking, you may need to install a coupler.



A goof plug is a small plastic part often used to seal off leaks or unwanted holes in drip irrigation tubing.

Please see the following page for additional guidance on eliminating leaky emitters and removing damaged sections of dripline.

## How to Eliminate a Leaking Emitter

Follow instructions to eliminate an emitter that is no longer needed for plant watering:

**Step 1:** Remove the leaking emitter from the dripline.

**Step 2:** Use pliers to firmly grasp the end of a goof plug. Insert the flared end directly into the hole from the removed emitter.

**Step 3:** Turn on the zone to ensure your repairs are working properly. If the goof plug is leaking, you may need to install a coupler.

## How to Replace a Damaged Section of Dripline

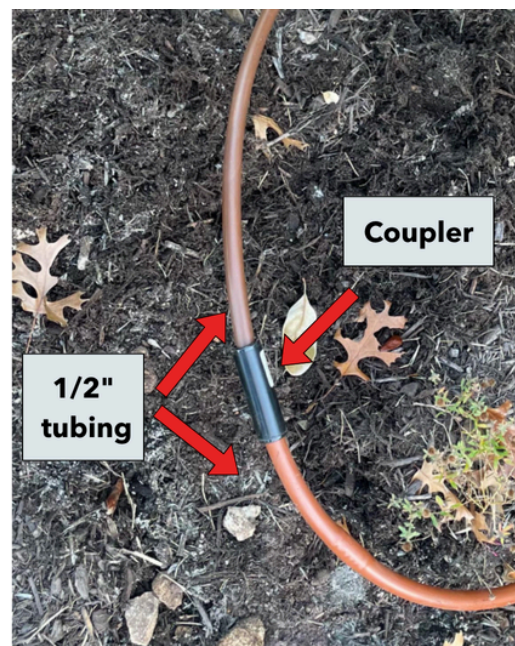
Follow instructions to replace a damaged section of dripline:

**Step 1:** Cut the damaged section of pipe and remove it from the dripline. Be sure to fully isolate the damaged section by accounting for an additional 6-9" of extra tubing length on either side of leak.

**Step 2:** Take one end of the drip coupler and insert it into a drip fitting insert tool or install by hand. Attach the coupler onto the dripline (without kinking it). If installing by hand, you may need to 'walk' the tubing back and forth as you press it into the coupler.

**Step 3:** Remove the insert tool (if applicable) and insert the other side of the coupler onto the other end of the drip pipe. The coupler should be fully installed. Note that 1" of tubing should be inserted into each end of the coupler for a tight seal.

**Step 4:** Turn on the zone and ensure the coupler is not leaking and the new emitter is working properly.



A drip coupler fitting is typically used to connect two 1/2" pieces of tubing.

**Did you know?** The City of Bozeman offers a Drip Irrigation Rebate for up to \$250 on eligible drip irrigation parts. Learn more by visiting the City's Outdoor Rebates Webpage at [www.bozemanwater.com](http://www.bozemanwater.com).