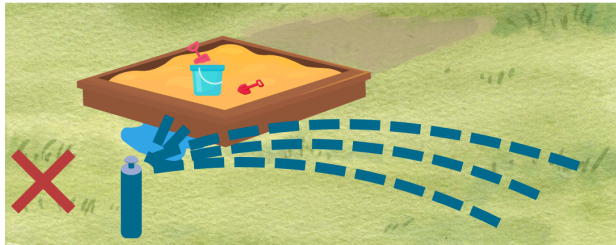


How to Identify and Remove Sprinkler Obstructions

What is a sprinkler obstruction?

Low growing plant limbs, downspouts, and trampolines are just a few of the countless items that can prevent a sprinkler head's spray from reaching its intended target area. Obstructions on your landscape may not only cause dry spots on your lawn, but can also cause your irrigation system to become less efficient over time.

How do I know if my sprinkler nozzle is obstructed?



Look for any sprinkler head in which spray is being blocked by vegetation or another object before reaching its intended target area. It is recommended that you test-run each of your sprinkler zones on a monthly basis to scan for new obstructions that may have arisen on your landscape.

How do I remove the sprinkler obstruction?

There are a few ways you can remove obstructions at or around sprinkler heads, but it's up to you to decide which option is best for your landscape:

- **Remove the obstruction.** If the obstruction is able to be moved, relocate it elsewhere on your landscape.
- **Trim back vegetation.** If it's a perennial, shrub, or tree, simply prune the vegetation until it's no longer obstructing the sprinkler's spray.
- **Relocate the sprinkler head.** If the obstruction is not easily movable, you may choose to consult a professional to relocate the head or follow our DIY instructions below.

Basic instructions for relocating an obstructed sprinkler head

Step 1: Determine where you will move the sprinkler head. Try to move it as little as possible (less than 2-3 ft).

Step 2: Excavate the obstructed sprinkler head so that the fitting at the base of the sprinkler body is exposed.

Step 3: Dig a narrow trench that connects the current head location to where it will be relocated. The trench should be as deep as the sprinkler body is tall. Dig a 6" wide hole at the new sprinkler head location.

Step 4: Disassemble the fittings from the bottom of the sprinkler head. If the head is connected directly to the pipe with a nipple, unthread the head and nipple from the lateral line.

Step 5: Thread a female funny pipe adaptor onto the lateral line and a male adaptor onto the bottom of the head.

Step 6: Connect the loose end of the funny pipe to the female adaptor on the lateral line. Twist the funny pipe clockwise until it is firmly held by the adaptor.

Step 7: Roll out enough funny pipe to go from the old location of the sprinkler head to its new one and cut to length.

Step 8: Connect the head to the loose end of funny pipe so the head is now reconnected to the lateral line.

Step 9: Situate the head so the top of it is level with the soil. Turn on the irrigation to test for leaks. If there are no leaks, bury the head roughly a third at a time, taking care to tamp down each portion of soil with your hand trowel.

Step 10: Bury the funny pipe with soil, working backwards towards where the head was originally placed.

