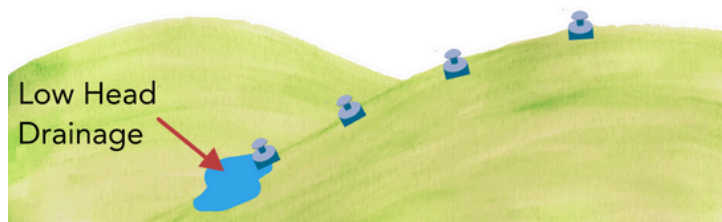


How to Resolve Low Head Drainage

What is low head drainage?

When a sprinkler zone is situated on a slope, it may cause the lowest elevation head on the zone to seep water, even after the zone stops running. This phenomenon is referred to as low head drainage. While water waste associated with this issue can be substantial, it is often easily resolved by installing check valves inside affected sprinkler bodies. Installing integrated check valves will allow water to exit the sprinkler head only when the zone has been turned ON.

How do I know if my sprinkler head is experiencing low head drainage?



Immediately after turning a zone off, search for sprinkler heads that continue to seep water from their nozzles. Usually, sprinkler heads experiencing low head drainage are found at the lowest elevations of the zone.

How do I fix low head drainage?

Step 1: Dig a 6-8" deep hole around the affected sprinkler head. This will expose where the sprinkler body connects to the irrigation system.

Step 2: Twist off the entire sprinkler body from the connection at its base.

Step 3: Install the replacement spray body with the integrated check valve and twist it back on to the connection.

Step 4: Remove the nozzle from the old sprinkler head and install it on the new head.
Note: Adjustments to the nozzle spray direction may be required following installation.

Step 5: Once the replacement body is firmly twisted into place, start your irrigation system to check for leaks. If everything looks good, turn the irrigation system off and refill the hole with roughly a third of its soil. Then, use a hand trowel to carefully tamp the soil surrounding the sprinkler head. Continue refiling the hole with soil, repeating this process twice more.

Step 6: After you have filled in all the loose soil, level it so there is a flat area.

Next Steps: After making your repairs, you may notice the problem has moved from the lowest elevation head on the zone to the second lowest head on the zone. In this case, replace the next lowest elevation head. Continue replacing heads one at a time until the problem is resolved.

