



Getting Ready for Your Blow-Out

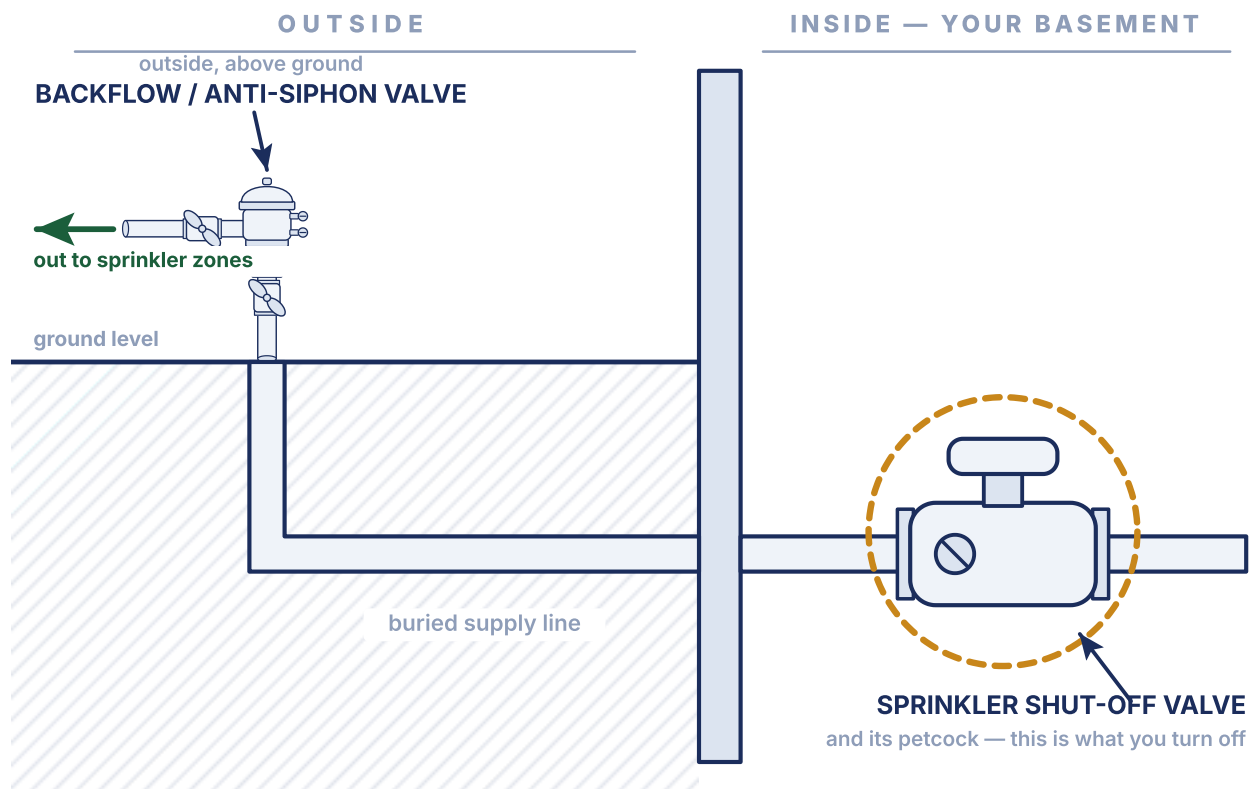
Turn your sprinkler water off before we arrive. Three steps, about two minutes — here is exactly where to look and what to turn.

Before we arrive, we need you to **shut off the water that feeds your sprinkler system** and open its drain. That is the whole job — about two minutes — and our crew does everything else from outside. We have written it out in detail because most people only do this once a year.

THREE STEPS · ABOUT TWO MINUTES

1 Find the sprinkler supply line in your basement

Start outside at your backflow — the brass assembly standing above ground near a corner of the house — and note roughly where it is. Then go downstairs and look along the ceiling for the copper line heading toward that spot. Follow it back toward the house until you reach a valve on that line. That valve is the one you want.



The sprinkler line leaves the house below grade, comes up outside at the backflow, and feeds the zones from there. Your shut-off valve sits on that line, inside.

FINISHED BASEMENT? THE PIPE MAY BE HIDDEN

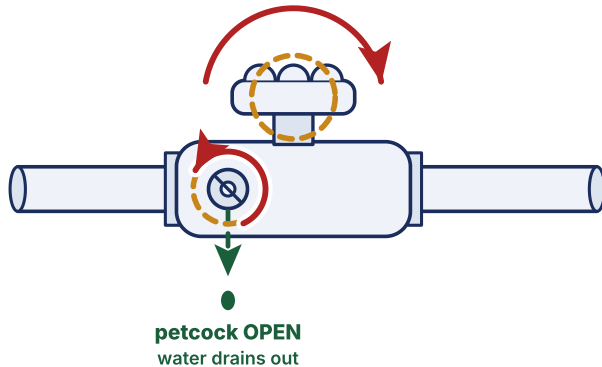
There is always a shut-off access panel somewhere. Open it and try one of the valves inside, then check a faucet upstairs: if the house water still runs, you found the sprinkler valve. If the house water stopped, you found the main — turn it back on and try the next one. **Label them once you know**, and next fall takes ten seconds.

2 Shut that valve off — all the way

You will have one of the two valves below. A **lever type** takes a quarter turn across the pipe. A **turn type** has to go clockwise until it genuinely stops — gloves and both hands help. A turn-type valve that is only *mostly* closed will seep, and over a few winter weeks that is enough to refill the line and freeze it.

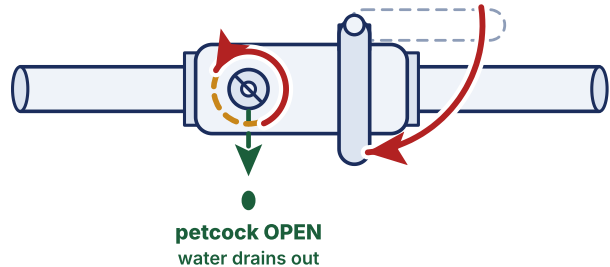
IF YOURS IS A TURN TYPE

Turn **CLOCKWISE** until it stops



IF YOURS IS A LEVER TYPE

Quarter turn **ACROSS** the pipe



3 Open the petcock and let it drain

The petcock is the small thimble-shaped knob on the side of that same valve. Turn it **counter-clockwise** to open it. Have a cup or small bucket ready — anywhere from a few drops to a cup or two will come out.

If water is still running steadily after two minutes, the valve above it is not fully closed. Go back to step 2 and tighten it further.

Leave the valve **CLOSED** and the petcock **OPEN** all winter

Many customers leave a cup under the petcock until we have been out — a little more water can come back through it while we blow the system out.

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE HOME

We work entirely from outside. Just leave gates unlocked and keep pets in.

PLEASE DO THIS BEFORE YOUR WEEK BEGINS

Have the water off no later than the **Sunday before** your scheduled week. If we arrive and it is still on, we cannot finish the job — and you will find a note at your door asking you to.

STUCK? CALL US — WE WOULD RATHER HELP THAN COME BACK

If you cannot find the valve, cannot get it to turn, or there is no petcock on it at all, call **303-781-1991**. We will walk you through it on the phone, or take a look while we are there.

WHAT WE DO WHEN WE GET THERE

We connect an air compressor at your backflow and run each zone until only air comes out, then set the handles on the backflow to a **45° angle** so any water left in the brass has somewhere to go when it freezes. If your handles look crooked afterwards, that is on purpose — leave them that way until spring.