



Rethink your lawn – the Bay-Friendly way

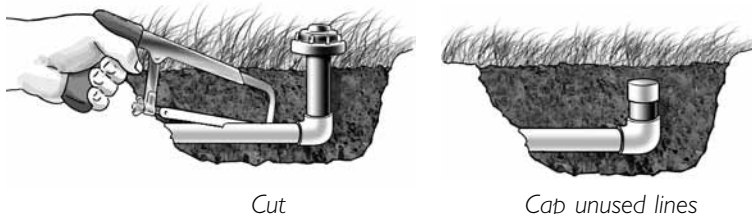
Retrofitting your sprinkler system to drip irrigation

www.LoseYourLawn.org

Drip irrigation is the ideal way to water your Bay-Friendly garden. You'll save water by *only* watering the plants that you want and not the weeds. Drip irrigation is easy to install and expand. Irrigation is important because even if your plants are drought-tolerant when mature, your new plants will require water and attention until established. Once your drought-tolerant plants are established, it is easy to cap irrigation or reduce the amount they receive with different emitters.

Converting an existing sprinkler system to drip irrigation is easy. Your lines are already installed so all you have to do is change out the sprinklers for water-saving emitters. Each valve has water pressure. You will need to change the entire valve over to drip.

1 Cut the lines: First choose one or two heads that are most convenient for you to change to a drip irrigation riser. Turn off the water system. Dig down into the ground and, using a hack saw, cut out the lines from the sprinkler head that go to the other unused areas of the old lawn.



Cut

Cap unused lines

2 Cap the unused lines that you cut using PVC glue and a correct diameter PVC cap. You are left with one riser on the valve.

3 Remove spray nozzle and screw on a PVC riser.

Connect either an 'octopus' head for 1/4" tubing or 1/2" line 'T' which you will connect to 1/2" polyethylene tubing (poly-tubing). If you use a different type of emitter, talk to an irrigation specialist about adding a pressure regulator and filter after the valve.



Replace

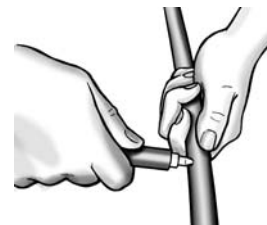


4 Lay 1/2" poly tubing along the center of planting area.

5 Punch holes in the poly tubing with a special hole punch and insert 1/4" spaghetti tubing that will run to each plant you want to water.



Lay tubing



Punch holes

6 Insert Emitters: Insert 1/2-gallon-per-hour emitters for perennials, and 1–2-gallon-per-hour emitters for trees and shrubs. Ask your nursery to help you figure out just how much water each plant needs and the schedule for watering.



7 Turn your system on manually and inspect it once your drip irrigation system is installed. Listen for broken emitters. Check the system monthly for clogged or broken lines.

8 Cover the exposed plastic drip lines with mulch to protect them from the sun.



Great job! Your sprinkler system has been converted to drip irrigation and you have laid the foundation for a beautiful Bay-Friendly garden that you will enjoy for years to come.

For a detailed description and case study of lawn removal with sheet mulch, be sure to check out the **Bay-Friendly Gardening Guide**, download or order online at BayFriendly.org.

For information on lawn conversion rebates, where to find local materials, instructional videos and other resources, visit LoseYourLawn.org.