

# Tip 6



**If doing it yourself, make sure your irrigation equipment is installed correctly to minimise wastage**

Expert advice from your local Water Pro's store will ensure that the investment you are making with a professionally designed sprinkler system is not wasted and neither is water, our most important natural resource.

### **Tips for DIY installation:**

- Trenching is the most time consuming part of installing pipework. If the area is accessible, use a trenching machine. If not, use a thinner trenching shovel (3, 4, 5, or 6 inches wide) rather than a conventional 8 inch shovel.
- Roll your coils of pipe out in a straight line and weigh them down at both ends. This will reduce the likelihood of the pipe kinking.
- Never install fittings after pipe has been buried, as it is extremely difficult to join. Even though buried, pipe will recoil (retract) once cut so always install fittings as the system is installed.
- Don't over tighten threads as compensation for using minimal thread tape (Teflon). Eventually a slow drip will develop into a constant spray. Make sure a sufficient amount is used.
- Pipe is not fully UV stabilized. It is essential that all pipework is buried or at least covered by mulch. This will prevent accelerated deterioration from the sun and frost.
- Small plastic or metal stakes are available to keep poly pipe relatively straight before burying it, when snaking it through a garden or lawn.
- Install all valves and solenoids before installing the valve boxes. Notches can be cut out of the valve boxes so they can be installed flush with the soil level. Bricks or timber can be laid under the valve box for stability, to keep it in position for years to come.

# Saving Water

**10 tips**  
for maintaining  
a green garden  
while saving water

- After flushing mainline/supply line and before installing solenoid valves with flow control, adjust the valves so they only open a small amount. Once the valve is plumbed in and the water supply slowly turned on, switch the solenoid on at the controller. With the solenoid coil activated, open the bleed valve. This will ensure the coil is operating and the bleeding of the valve allows any air to be expelled. Then adjust the flow to the required pressure to a point just before misting occurs.
- For drippers and micro sprays, put a flushing valve at the end of the line and a vacuum breaker at the start. This will reduce the possibility of air locks in the system and prevent vacuum (backflow) and the clogging of sprays and drippers.
- Flushing the lines before fitting off the nozzles, sprays, drippers, valves etc is critical in preventing blockages in the system. Always leave the end of a line open and above ground level. This will stop any possibility of a vacuum sucking debris back down the line when flushed. When installing pop-ups, start from the lowest point. After flushing the line, fit the lowest heads off and continue the flushing and fitting off up to the highest points to minimize back flow.
- When installing pipe in lawns ensure it is buried at a minimum depth of 5 inches (125mm) to avoid piercing the pipework when aerating or scarifying the lawn.
- The top of pop-ups should always be installed flush with the soil. This will ensure mowing and wiper snipping will not damage the pop-ups. Sprinklers only work effectively when pop-ups are installed correctly.
- As sprinklers, particularly lawn pop ups are installed extra soil should be packed around the sprinkler to stabilize and correctly position them.

**Need help with installing your own efficient watering system? Ask a Pro – a Water Pro – Ph: 1300 660 111**

### **9 Handy Locations across Melbourne**

**Burwood** 39 Huntingdale Rd  
**Dandenong** 2/1 Attenborough St **Elsternwick** 515 Glenhuntly Rd  
**Hoppers Crossing** 9/428 Old Geelong Rd  
**Lilydale** 19 Cave Hill Rd **Moorabbin** 250 Chesterville Rd  
**Frankston** 3/9 Sir Laurence Drive Seaford  
**Sunbury** 59 Vineyard Rd **Thomastown** 280 Settlement Rd



## **WATER PRO'S**

The Sprinkler & Irrigation Professionals

1300 660 111

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**Committed to saving water**