**How to Spot Leaks in Your In-ground Sprinkler System**

-Look at the differences in water pressure and if the system is spraying low water pressure when it is on

-[Mold and mildew on the lawn](http://homeguides.sfgate.com/detect-sprinkler-leaks-44375.html) or grass and plant damage caused by fungus

-Areas that are [much greener above the water lines](http://homeguides.sfgate.com/detect-sprinkler-leaks-44375.html) or around the sprinkler heads of your system

-Water [bubbling up](http://www.familyhandyman.com/landscaping/fixing-sprinkler-systems/view-all)when the system is running or a depressed, sunken area in your lawn

-Small [holes](http://www.smarthomewaterguide.org/outdoor-visual-leak-inspection) in your yard

-A sprinkler system line that sprays [dirty wate](https://www.ksl.com/?sid=24800329)r

-Signs of [animal damage](http://www.h2ouse.org/action/details/action_element_contents.cfm?actionID=f56f50f2-34e3-4095-9a919c304d945b5f&elementID=68BAD0B5-0C95-4AE8-8EC6EC8D76A4CBE1) or digging that could cause a leak

**Fix a Leak in Your Sprinkler System**

Many leaks can be fixed without professional intervention, saving you  on sprinkler system costs.

**Step 1: Look for sprinkler heads that don’t spray properly or have low water flow**

First, you must locate the leak. If you think the leak is in a water line, look for [sprinkler heads in a zone that aren't working](http://www.familyhandyman.com/landscaping/fixing-sprinkler-systems/view-all) or that have very low pressure. You’ll likely find the leak or water line issue somewhere between a working sprinkler head and several non-working ones, especially if that area stays [wet and soggy](http://www.doityourself.com/stry/how-to-repair-a-leaking-lawn-sprinkler-system#b).

**Step 2: Dig Until you Find the Issue**

After you’ve found the leak, [carefully dig](http://www.doityourself.com/stry/how-to-repair-a-leaking-lawn-sprinkler-system#b) until you find the component that’s causing the issue (contact your utility company before you start digging). In some cases, you may just need to tighten a clamp or joint, or maybe replace a damaged or torn seal or valve. In some cases, you may need to replace an entire section of pipe.

**Step 3: Minimize Leak Issues with Proper Maintenance**

To minimize leak issues, make sure to operate and maintain your in-ground sprinkler system properly.

Observe all the zones in operation at least weekly during watering months to watch for heads that aren’t spraying correctly and to make sure that the heads are positioned to supply adequate water to all areas of your lawn and garden. Take care when operating lawn mowers and other equipment around sprinkler heads and keep vehicles off the grass.  Check your control panel regularly to make sure the settings are correct and pay attention to the water pressure when the system is operating.  Keeping a close eye on your automatic irrigation system will help you nip small problems in the bud before they become big ones.