

How to Repair an Impact Sprinkler Head

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what you'll need

- Impact sprinkler system
- Screwdriver
- Sandpaper
- Rags

An **impact sprinkler** is an effective irrigation system that can be used to water wide areas of lawns and gardens. The system works by spraying pressurized water on a given surface area uniformly. It mimics the effect of rainfall to ensure that the grass on the lawn or the plants on the garden are well watered. The only problem is when the sprinkler starts to malfunction: all of a sudden, you might notice that the area around the sprinkler head is downright marshy, while the rest of your lawn turns brown, or maybe only half of your lawn is getting watered. This can certainly be infuriating, but there are also several easy steps that you can take on your own to repair the impact sprinkler and optimize its performance. Keep reading to learn how.

Step 1 – Determine the Problem

Before you take any steps to repair the impact sprinkler, you need to know exactly what's going wrong. There are a few tests you can do to determine the problem. Do some basic troubleshooting by checking for the obvious: make sure the timer is set correctly, the master shut off valve is open, the flow control is open and that the water pressure is at the correct level for your model.

Step 2 – The Water Pressure Test

One of the most common issues with impact sprinklers is that they stop rotating. To rule out a simple question of water pressure, go to a working sprinkler head and push your hand on it to block the water flow; if the other heads start rotating, that simply means that you need to

increase water pressure in the system and open the flow control, which is easily done. However, if that doesn't work, you'll probably need to fix the irrigation valves in the rotors. Move on to Step 3 to find out more.

Step 3 – Try Sandpaper

If your impact sprinkler head isn't moving correctly and isn't watering uniformly, one simple quick fix is to take some sandpaper and gently rub all of its parts. This process can help reduce friction and encourage free and easy movement.

Step 4 – Clean Out the Solenoid Valve

If the sprinkler valve is clogged, this will keep the sprinkler from watering your lawn uniformly. Unscrew the solenoid valve box with a screwdriver and take out the valve. Flush out any debris and clean out mud with dry rags.