

3 Key Components of an Irrigation System

1. Control Zone

This is the point where water is redirected from a main water line for your home to your garden. For most folks that will begin at a faucet or spigot.

- Running water
- Manual or electric valve
- Timer (controls when water can flow through valve)
- Filter (controls the quality of the water and size of particulates)
- Pressure regulator (controls the downstream water pressure)

2. Distribution

How to get water from the control zone to the plants.

- Materials
 - Poly is high quality, flexible tubing for general irrigation and made with UV resistant materials for installations above or below ground
 - Supply tubing - Usually ½ ¾ or 1 inch is used to supply water to all plant areas that need irrigation
 - Distribution tubing - Usually ⅝ or ¾ inch is used to extend the outlet of water out to an individual plant
 - PVC is a rigid and long lasting tubing material that is a preferred option for water needing to travel long distances.
- Connections such as tees elbows connectors
- Stakes (to secure tubing)

3. Emission Devices

How to control how much water comes out of your distribution system to meet the needs of each plant.

- Drip line tubing
- Single outlet emitters
- Multiport emitters
- Micro sprays
- Bubblers

On average, you should run your drip system twice a week during spring and fall, every other day during the summer, and once a week during the winter. The frequency of water application depends on your location, plant material, climate, and type of soil. After one or two weeks of working with the system, check the soil and adjust the watering time as needed.