

Swapping a zone from spray/rotor to drip with a retrofit kit

Tools:

- Shovel
- Hand spade
- Scissors or PVC pipe cutters to cut tubing
- Flat-head screwdriver for hose clamp

Things to know before getting started:

- Drip compression fittings are used to link two or more ends of drip tube together. Compression fittings do not require clamps; this type of fitting is like a “finger trap” toy (figure 1),
- Wrap all threaded fittings clockwise with two to three wraps of PTFE/Teflon tape to prevent leaks before attaching adjoining piece. (figure 2)
- Hand tighten all threaded fittings.
- Underlined phrases are included on the [shopping list](#).
- Drip irrigation requires a lower pressure than turf sprinklers. Drip retrofit kits have a pressure reducer inside.
- This is not the only way to retrofit a zone to drip.

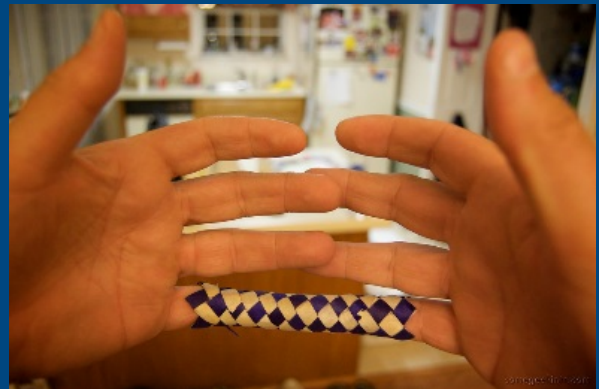


Figure 1: finger trap (Flickr, Casey Fleser)



Figure 2: Teflon tape (irrigationtutorials.com)

Instructions

1. Turn on the sprinkler zone for one minute in order to flag all heads.
2. Locate the head(s) that will be retrofitted. Dig around the head deep enough to expose the pipe below. Not sure which heads to retrofit? [See this guide](#).
3. Remove the existing sprinkler head completely and replace with a drip retrofit kit.
4. All other heads on the zone must be capped.
 - Dig up and remove the head and funny/swing pipe kit, if present (Figure 3).
 - Install a cap on the tee fitting. 1/2" nipple fitting may be necessary unless a fitting from the previous head is still in place.
 - Before replacing soil around/on top of each cap or retrofit kit, turn on that sprinkler zone and check for leaks around fittings.
5. Attach drip tube to retrofit kit (figure 4). Secure tube to fitting with hose clamp.
6. Route drip tube through plantings and secure with stakes. Attach elbow- or T-compression fittings to make any necessary turns.
7. At the end of the drip tube, attach an endcap-compression fitting.
8. Insert 1 or 2 -0.5 GPH drip emitters into drip tube adjacent to each plant. Emitters are self-piercing and will insert easier on a tube warmed by the sun.
9. Attach appropriate length of spaghetti tube to each emitter to water the root ball of each new plant.

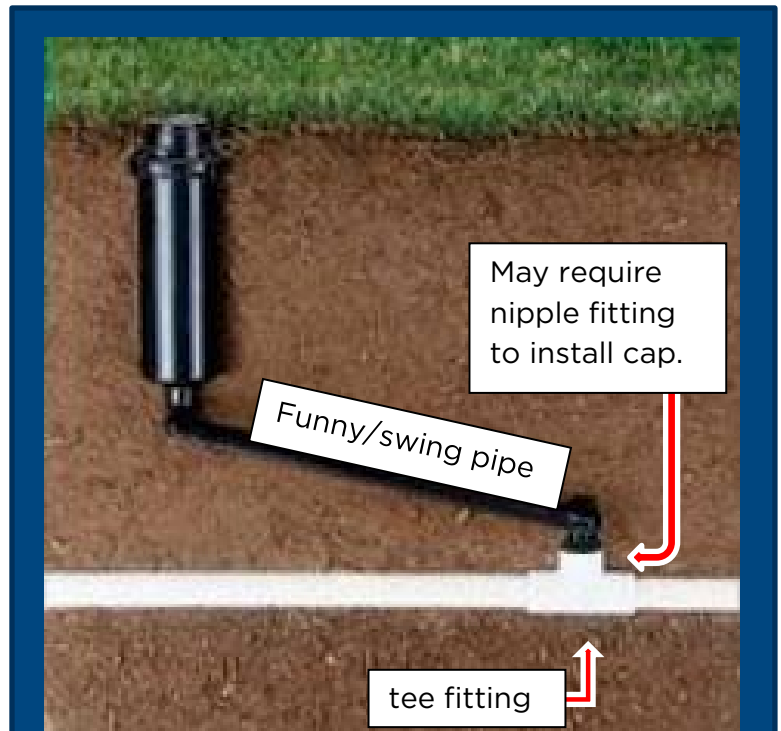


Figure 3: (CSE Landscape Architect)

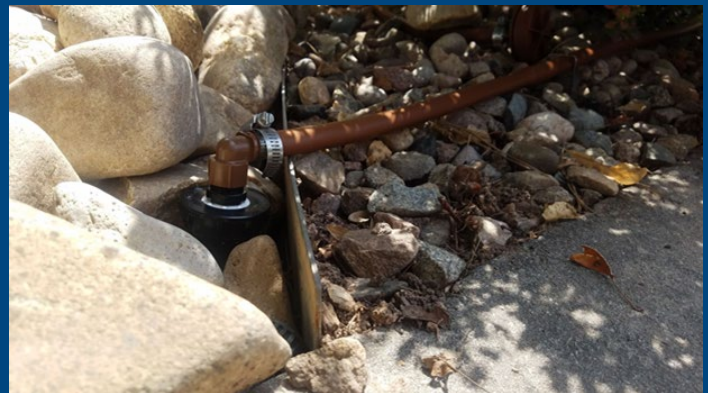


Figure 4: (Xeriscape Incentive Program)