



Swing Pipe Installation Tips

Swing pipe is flexible tubing made from high quality polyethylene that is used to connect pop-up spray heads and rotors to PVC and poly pipe lateral lines in an irrigation system. Swing pipe can be effectively used in areas where the space is confined or restricted due to the placement of water meters, utility boxes or hardscaping which can not be moved prior to irrigation installation. The flexibility and kink-resistance of the Rain Bird® swing pipe makes a difficult installation quick and easy. Even in wet and muddy conditions, the surface texture of our swing pipe is easy to grip. Use Rain Bird's swing pipe and the following installation tips the next time you install an irrigation system.

Application

- Swing pipe is used to connect spray heads and rotors (up to 10 gallons per minute) to lateral irrigation lines. Used with Rain Bird's spiral barb fittings, the installation of sprinkler heads and rotors is quick and easy.
- Swing pipe is made of high quality polyethylene. If installed above ground UVA and UVB sun rays will not degrade the product.
- Use swing pipe in heavily trafficked areas. It allows the head to move under the weight of an object without transferring the impact of this force to hard-line PVC pipes, poly pipe or fittings. Use in areas where humans, golf carts, lawn mowers, bicycles or the use of other heavy equipment might be common.



Landscape Design Considerations

- You can easily download design specifications from the Rain Bird website into original irrigation design.
- When designing head placement, be sure to allow for the offset of the head due to the swing pipe length. Maintain correct distance between heads for head to head coverage.

Tools and Complementary Product

- No special tools needed — only a shovel and a sharp knife or pipe cutter to adjust pipe length.
- Spiral barb fittings (½" and ¾") are a complement to swing pipe. No glue or primer is needed to secure the fittings. Teflon tape applied to fitting threads is optional. Do not use pipe dope of any kind on fittings.

Installation

- Dig a trench in accordance with the plan. At head locations remember to allow for placement of swing pipe and head.
- Place lateral pipe into trench, measure the distances between the heads as indicated on the original design. Lay out swing pipe from head back to the point of lateral pipe connection (saddle tee, PVC, or poly fitting). Cut swing pipe and install in trench. Design calculations for pressure loss should be considered when using lengths longer than 36 inches. PVC or poly tee, or elbow, should be at a 90° angle to the finished grade.
- If you are working in an area where it is difficult to maneuver a vibratory plough or a machine to trench in the lateral, plan to run the lateral as close to hardscape as the equipment permits and swing pipe the remaining distance.
- Insert spiral barb fittings into each end of the pipe. Fittings are equipped with



barbs that securely grab the inside wall of the swing pipe.

- In cold climates, fittings are easier to install if the swing pipe is warm. Set the pipe in the sun, on concrete or asphalt, to soften the pipe. The use of a torch is not recommended. Extreme heat damages the swing pipe — breaking down its chemical structure.
- If you elect to use Teflon tape, apply it to the spiral barb fitting. Screw the spiral barb fitting into the PVC/poly pipe and the other into the sprinkler head base. Place swing pipe and head in trench and place clean backfill under and around head, compacting soil and leveling the top of the sprinkler head with finish grade.
- Make sure the head is placed correctly (i.e. slightly higher than the lateral pipe). This configuration allows drainage from the head to the lateral to protect against freeze damage during cold weather.
- Measure distance to the next head and repeat installation process.

Servicing and Maintenance

- Since swing pipe is flexible and easily adjusted, it saves you time when repairing a damaged head, or re-leveling a spray head. The service cost per head is greatly reduced.
- Swing pipe simplifies the installation of additional spray heads or their relocation. Determine where you would like the head located, dig your trench, insert the spiral barb fittings into the pipe and attach it to the lateral and spray head.

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