



GPST

Threaded Emitters Maintenance

While our emitters have a three-year warranty, they can last for many more years with regular maintenance. Regular maintenance is essential for drip irrigation systems to prevent clogs and water waste, which is especially critical during dry conditions. Common issues arise from mineral buildup due to hard water, dirt, algae, and insect activity.



Routine maintenance checklist

Seasonal preparation

Flush the system:

At the start of the irrigation season, open the end caps/flush valves of all drip lines and run the water until it flows clear. This clears out any sediment and debris that accumulated over the winter.

Inspect and clean the filter:

The filter is your system's first line of defense against clogs. Open the filter (usually a Y-shaped component near the water source) and remove the screen or disk element. Clean it with a brush or hose. For well or pond water, check filters monthly, possibly weekly; for municipal water, once per year is often sufficient.



Monthly Inspection

Check for leaks and clogs:

Run the system and visually inspect all emitters for proper water flow. Check for abnormally wet or dry spots, which can indicate leaks or blockages.

Adjust emitter placement:

As plants and trees grow, their root systems expand. Move emitters outward to ensure water reaches the active root zone. Also, check to make sure the emitters are not buried by mud slurry or soil. These emitters are to be installed above grade so that only the base of the male adapter is touching the soil.



Factors to Consider:

Hard water:

Many Regions are dealing with hard water, which contains high levels of minerals like calcium and magnesium. These minerals can cause white, crusty deposits to build up and clog emitters. Regular flushing and filter cleaning are crucial.

Drought conditions:

With frequent droughts, conserving water is a top priority. Maintaining an efficient drip system ensures no water is wasted on leaks or improperly functioning emitters.

Pest activity:

Insects, particularly ants, can be attracted to the moisture in drip lines and build nests that block emitters. Regularly monitoring and, if necessary, raising the drip lines off the ground can help.

High temperatures:

Intense sun can make black plastic tubing brittle over time, increasing the risk of cracks and leaks. Adding mulch can help protect the lines from UV exposure.

Consider a system acid flush:

If you have severe clogging due to mineral buildup from hard water, you may need a system-wide acid flush.

Exercise extreme caution when handling acids:

Wear protective gear, including gloves and goggles.

Add acid to water slowly, not water to acid.

Use a diluted solution of hydrochloric or phosphoric acid to reach a pH of 2.0.

Run the solution through the lines for about an hour, then flush thoroughly with clean water for another hour.

We only suggest to do this under supervision of a specialist GPH is not responsible for damaged plant material or harm when using acid.

Gph

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