

# Converting Sprays to Drip Irrigation

You have an existing spray system and haven't been able to use it. So what can you do? There's no need to rip it up and start all over again, save money and convert it to a Drip Irrigation System!

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## Drip Irrigation

### How Do I Convert My Spray System?

So you've had a spray system installed and haven't been able to use it since the introduction of water restrictions. It may seem like a simple process but there are a number of important processes involved to make sure your garden gets watered effectively.

### Pressure Reduction & Filtration



Due to the method in which drip tube distributes water, it is vitally important that all drip lines are equipped with a pressure reducer and filter. Without, the drippers can become blocked and fittings can leak or even blow off. Ideally, use a [20mm Netafim Inline Pressure Reducer](#) and [19mm Inline Poly Filter](#) after the [Solenoid Valve](#) or [Tap Computer](#).

### Choosing Connection Points



The next step is to choose where you want to connect the drip tube into the existing pipework. The simplest point to do this is at any riser, connect at the top of the riser with a [15mm M&F elbow](#) and then a [15mm F.I. to 13mm Poly Elbow](#). From here you can run your drip tube, add a [13mm Elbow](#) at the base and the tube can be run from there.

### Capping Off



If you want to use the existing pipe work, the next important step when converting your system is capping off all risers, pop-ups or anything with a spray. It is important that every spray is capped because the flow rate is much greater than any dripper and will ruin any chance of even distribution of water throughout your garden. To plug [pop-ups](#) and [risers](#) use [15mm plugs](#) and [caps](#).

## Choose Your Type of Drip Tube



Although they all look pretty similar, there are some distinct differences between types of drip tube. We suggest [Netafim TechlineAS](#) for residential drip systems.

[TechlineAS](#) has drippers every 30cms but drips at 3 lph so you can get more water on your garden in your allocated 2 hours. Techline is great for undulating gardens because it is pressure compensating and can be run for a max 72m.

Another type, [Toro Drip-Eze](#), has drippers every 30cms and each drips at 2 litres per hour. It isn't pressure compensating so it's recommended for flat garden beds, and it can be run for a max 60m. However [Toro Drip-Eze](#) can be run with [Netafim Landline](#), an 6mm drip tube with the same flow rate. \*\*Only combine different drip tubes with the same flow rate\*\*

## Planning and Laying Drip Tube



For your garden to be watered effectively it is important that your tube is planned and laid correctly. In a garden bed with regular soil that's not too sandy or full of clay, we suggest running a line of tube around the perimeter and then connecting lines 40cms apart through the middle. For sandy soil lay the lines closer together (30cms) and for heavier soils lay further apart (50cms). Also keep in mind that your drip tube

will try and lift from the ground when you are laying it out so you will need [Galvanised Steel Pins](#) to secure it to the ground.

## Flush, Program & Operate!



Before you turn on your system you need to flush your lines, this can be done with a [Netafim Flush Valve](#) or [13mm Shut Off Tap](#). Then program the [Controller](#), because of the method of water distribution, drip tube needs to be run for longer, depending on the time of year this could be 30 mins to 2 hours. Now you can watch your garden turn green again!

*SunshowerOnline sells only the highest quality Drip Irrigation components we use all of the trusted brands to make sure your system works first time everytime!*