Converting to Drip Irrigation
In the Home Landscape

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Converting from a pop up spray head to ¼” poly tubing with attached or build in emitters

Approaches to Converting to Drip Irrigation

1. Swapping sprinkler heads to spaghetti tube
2. Poly tubing with built in emitters.
3. Poly tubing with emitters to insert.
4. Drip tape
5. Soaker Hose

Tubing terminates at root zone of plant; Fitting chosen according to plant water requirements
Converting from a pop-up sprinkler to ½” poly tubing with build in emitters.

Pop up spray head replaced with riser that accepts ½” poly tubing

Tubing with .9G emitters spaced at 12” woven around plants in the bedding area.

Poly tubing, with 1 gph emitters embedded, runs from plant to plant with equally spaced emitters (6”, 12”) that can be buried beneath mulch or soil.

Parts

Drip Tube, self-install emitters
Drip Tube, self-install emitters

Parts

Drip Tape for Linear Gardening/Vegetable Beds

Application Examples
How do I choose what method?

**Vegetable Garden/Linear**
- Drip Tape
- Soaker hose
- Poly tubing with built in emitters
- Poly tubing with emitters to attach where needed

**Mixed Perennial Beds/Trees**
- (Poly tubing with built in emitters)
- Poly tubing with attached emitters
- Soaker hose

Helpful Drip Tips!

- Switch to drip slowly - Convert one section of yard at a time (to discover what works best for you and your plants). You will make mistakes and learn how to avoid them on a larger scale!
- Separate planting beds by water needs if possible to avoid watering to the level of the neediest plant.
- Convert your plants to drip slowly. Give them and most importantly their roots a chance to change with you.
- Practice good irrigation principals like: watering deeply and infrequently, during cooler times of the day and only when truly necessary.*I avoid my garden in the middle of the day during hot times --- some plants just can’t keep up transpiration no matter how much water is available to them. Water if the ground is dry a finger length down and/or the plant still looks weary in the cool of the morning.

Resources:

- UC Master Gardener Website: [http://cagardenweb.ucanr.edu/Drought](http://cagardenweb.ucanr.edu/Drought)
- DripDepot.com
- Horizon, Landscaping supply, 301 Broadway, Sac
- Irrigation Supply, Woodland CA, Kentucky Ave,
- Peaceful Valley Farm & Garden Supply
  – Watering, Issue 5 of 9, 2015 Catalog Series

An example of a mixed bed converted to drip irrigation in 2014. Photo take April 2015