

Irrigation Contractor Photo Checklist

Irrigation work — mainlines, lateral runs, valve manifolds, and drip zones — is buried underground or hidden in walls before anyone reviews it. When a homeowner disputes a dry zone, a leak surfaces after the system is covered, or a backflow inspection is required, the question is always the same: **can you prove the pipe was laid at the right depth, the heads were set correctly, and the system passed pressure?** This guide gives your crew the exact shots to capture on every irrigation job.

THE 7 PHASES

Document Every Phase, Protect Every Job

01 PHASE Pre-Installation Site Assessment

- Existing irrigation system condition
- Point of connection (POC) location
- Underground utility markings confirmed
- Water meter & service size documented
- Backflow preventer type required
- Soil type & infiltration rate noted
- Static water pressure measured & noted
- Permit & approved plan on-site
- Homeowner pre-existing damage noted

02 PHASE Mainline & Trench Installation

- Trench depth — tape measure in shot
- Pipe bedding material documented
- Sleeve under hardscape — type & depth
- Trench width & bottom condition
- Mainline routing photographed — wide shot
- Mainline pressure test before backfill
- Mainline pipe type & size labeled
- Mainline at all directional changes
- Open trench before backfill — full run

03 PHASE Valve Manifold & Backflow

- Valve box location documented
- Backflow preventer type & orientation
- Wire connections — waterproof connectors
- Manifold assembly — valves & wiring
- Backflow preventer test port access
- Master valve installation (if used)
- Valve brand, model & zone number
- Wiring color code per zone — labeled
- Flow sensor installation (if used)



04 PHASE Lateral Lines & Head Layout

- Lateral pipe type & size labeled
- Pop-up height & nozzle type per zone
- Drip emitter type & GPH labeled
- Head spacing per zone — wide shot
- Head set to finish grade — depth shot
- Drip line depth & anchor staples
- Rotor vs. spray zone separation confirmed
- Head arc & radius adjustment confirmed
- All laterals before backfill — full shot

05 PHASE Controller & Wiring

- Controller location & mounting
- Common wire run — wire gauge
- Program schedule — baseline set
- Controller brand & model labeled
- Sensor wiring — rain or soil
- Controller in working mode — wide shot
- Zone wiring labeled at controller
- Wi-Fi or smart controller setup
- Remote access confirmed (if applicable)

06 PHASE System Testing & Adjustment

- Each zone activated — wide shot running
- Pressure at head — gauge in frame
- Leak check — all zones after test
- Head-to-head coverage confirmed per zone
- Rotor arc & radius final adjustment
- Backflow preventer test result
- Dry spots or overlap areas noted
- Drip zone — all emitters flowing
- Final system run — all zones cycled

07 PHASE Final Inspection & Closeout

- Permit card & inspection sticker
- Valve box lids secured & at grade
- Controller program documented
- Inspector or municipality approval
- Backflow preventer final position
- Client walkthrough — zone by zone
- All trenches backfilled & compacted
- As-built zone map photographed
- Warranty documentation photographed

HOW TO USE THIS IN THE FIELD

Turn This Checklist Into Your Daily Workflow

- 01 Photograph Every Trench Before Backfill**
Pipe depth, bedding material, and mainline routing all disappear the moment soil goes back in. These shots are the only record of what is buried and where — essential for any future repair, expansion, or dispute about installation depth.
- 02 Capture the Pressure Test Before Covering Any Pipe**
A pressure test gauge in the frame with the system pressurized is your proof that the mainline was leak-free before backfill. Without this shot, any future leak becomes your liability.
- 03 Document Every Zone Running from the Same Vantage Point**
One wide shot per zone with heads fully extended and water flowing proves coverage and head placement. These images are your defense against dry-zone or poor-coverage disputes.
- 04 Photograph the As-Built Zone Map Before You Leave**
A photo of the completed zone map — taped inside the controller cabinet or handed to the homeowner — is the reference that saves hours on every future service call.

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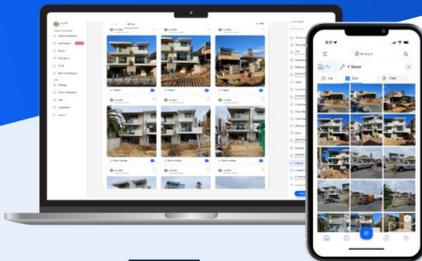
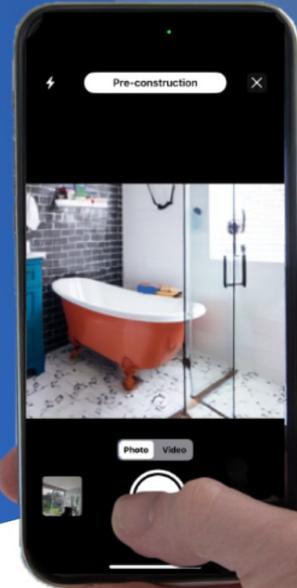
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