

Rain Sensors

Installation and Maintenance



A rain sensor overrides the cycle of an automatic irrigation system when adequate rainfall has been received. The device is mounted outdoors, typically on the eave of a roof, and wired to the irrigation system's controller.

Who needs a rain sensor?

Florida law (Statute 373.62) and Volusia County Ordinance 50-315 require a rain sensor to be installed on all automatic irrigation systems.

What is adequate rainfall?

It is recommended that the rain sensor be set to override the irrigation cycle when a quarter-inch to a half-inch of rainfall has been received.

Will a rain sensor affect my automatic timer's schedule?

No. The device overrides the cycle until the rain sensor device dries (it will dry as the soil dries). The controller will then revert to the regular irrigation schedule, which should be set to the current watering restrictions.

Who may install a rain sensor?

A homeowner may install the device. However, it is recommended that you use an irrigation contractor who holds a certificate of competency for pump and irrigation installations from the Florida Department of Health. Call 386-822-6250, ext. 5579, to confirm the contractor's license.

Where can I purchase a rain sensor?


A rain sensor device can be purchased where irrigation supplies are sold, such as a supply house.

What are the advantages of rain sensors?

- **They save money.** Using a rain sensor can reduce your water bill, or your electric bill if you use a pump, by overriding the irrigation system's cycle after adequate rainfall.
- **They save the system.** The device causes the irrigation system to run only when necessary.
- **They protect the lawn.** The device prevents over-watering, which can reduce lawn fungal disease.
- **They conserve water.** Rainfall is allowed to do its job of watering the lawn. This helps save precious water resources from being wasted.

Operating tips

- Make sure the rain sensor is wired into the controller. Wires from the sensor should be attached to a port called a "SEN" inside the controller.
- Make sure the sensor's override switch is turned off.
- To test your rain sensor, turn on a zone, then push down the button at the top of the sensor. The zone should be shut off shortly.

Know your watering days			
	Homes with odd-numbered or no address	Homes with even addresses	Businesses
Daylight Saving Time	Wednesday and Saturday	Thursday and Sunday	Tuesday and Friday
Standard Time	Saturday	Sunday	Tuesday
<p>Watering is not permitted between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.</p> <p>Daylight savings time begins the second Sunday in March and ends the first Sunday in November.</p> <p>Each zone of your irrigation system may be watered no more than one hour or three-quarters of an inch a day.</p>			



For more information, visit www.volusia.org/water-conservation