



# Rain Sensor Devices

## What are rain sensor devices?

Rain sensor devices automatically shut off automatic sprinkler systems during and after rain showers and allow the system to go back to normal cycle when the sensor dries out. These devices save tremendous amounts of otherwise wasted irrigation water.

## Are they required?

All automatic sprinkler systems installed after May 1991 have been required by state law (F.S.373.62 ) to have rain sensor devices.

## How much water will they save?

Savings in water and money depend on how large your yard is, how much irrigation water you typically use, how much water costs in your community, and how many days of rainfall occur. Our best estimates of savings are a 16% reduction in irrigation water use averaged over the entire year. If your water use is 30,000 gallons per month or more, the cost of the device will be paid back in water savings within two months. If you use 10,000 gallons per month or less, the payback period will be under 2 years.

## Where can I buy one and who will install it?

Some of the most highly rated rain sensor devices are not available in home supply stores. Irrigation supply companies sell the devices to home owners. The home owner can install the device, following the instruction included, if he or she is skilled with electrical connections. However, installation by a certified irrigation contractor is recommended.

Some older timers used for well-and-pump systems have a voltage incompatibility with modern rain sensor devices, and timers may have to be replaced.

## How do I set the device and test it?

Recommended settings with our typical soils are 1/2inch, in other words, the device will shut off the irrigation system when 1/2inch of rainfall has been received. Some new rain sensors are preset for 1/2inch. To see if the installed rain sensor is working, turn on your sprinklers and spray the sensor with a hose. When the preset amount of water has been received, the sprinkler should shut off.

