

Rain Sensors

\$175.00* to install a rain sensor!

**Includes labor and parts for one rain sensor; also see incentives available through the City of Spokane*

What is a rain sensor?

A rain sensor, also called a rain shut-off device or a rain switch, is a small device that turns off an irrigation system when it rains. Mounted in an open outdoor area and connected to your irrigation system, a rain sensor can significantly reduce your water bill while conserving municipal drinking water.

Some rain sensors have a function to turn off within the first few minutes of rainfall. The total amount of rain will determine how long your system will stay off. The rain sensor may shut your system off for one to several days after a rainfall, depending on a number of factors such as the amount of rain and the sensor's exposure to wind and sun.

How do rain sensors work?

Most rain sensors have water-absorbing expansion disks that swell in the presence of rain – similar to a sponge. After a certain amount of rainfall, this depresses an electrical switch, thereby bypassing the regular cycle of irrigation and turning off your automatic irrigation system. The disks shrink as they dry, until they release from the electrical switch, restoring the normal cycle of your irrigation system. Rain sensors with expansion disks are the most popular type because they are highly reliable and require little maintenance.

Benefits of Rain Sensors:

- **SAVE MONEY:** Whether you pay for city water or spend electricity running a pump, the money you save over time will more than pay for the rain sensor.
- **Prolong the Life of Your Irrigation System:** A rain sensor can reduce wear to your system because it runs only when necessary.
- **Reducing Nutrient Loss & Disease Damage:** Over-watering causes nutrients to wash away from turf, requiring increased applications of fertilizer. It also retards deep root growth and increases lawn susceptibility to disease. In fact, over-watering has been called the most common cause of disease in turf.
- **Conserving Municipal Water:** By preventing unnecessary irrigation after rain events, rain sensors help ensure water availability for emergencies, such as firefighting, especially during the peak summer months.

The City of Spokane is offering additional incentives to those who qualify; to learn more please visit: http://www.spokanewater.org/?page_id=90

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