

## How to Install a Rain Sensor

### What is a rain sensor?



A rain sensor is a device that sends an electronic signal to your irrigation controller to prevent the irrigation schedule from running during or after rain events. This helps you save water by letting the rain take the place of your irrigation schedule. Installing a rain sensor conserves water for our community and can help reduce your summertime utility costs.

### How do I know if I already have a rain sensor connected to my irrigation system?

Typically the sensor is placed near your gutters, but it may be mounted somewhere in your garden or on a fence. You can also check your controller wiring. Wires are typically connected to sensor ports when present. Please note that wired loops between sensor ports do not indicate the presence of a rain sensor.

### What to know before purchasing a rain sensor - wired vs. wireless options

You have options when it comes to purchasing a new sensor and typically the sensor manufacturer does not need to match your controller manufacturer (check your controller's user manual for compatibility considerations). The main factor to consider when purchasing a new rain sensor is if you prefer a wired or wireless version.

Wired Sensor	Wireless Sensor
<p><b>Pros and Cons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited installation locations due to wiring</li> <li>• No battery replacement required</li> <li>• Inexpensive</li> <li>• More reliable connection over time</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pros and Cons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater flexibility for sensor placement location</li> <li>• Requires a battery change every 1-2 years</li> <li>• More expensive</li> <li>• Allows for easy adjustments to rain sensitivity</li> </ul>

### Instructions for installing wired rain sensors

**Step 1:** Determine the installation location for your sensor. It is recommended that you install it in close proximity of the controller, in an unobstructed area to ensure the sensor can receive rainfall easily.

**Step 2:** Disconnect power to your controller. Then, locate the controller's sensor ports. You may need to consult your controller's user manual to determine which ports are relevant to your rain sensor.

**Step 3:** Locate a protected area near the controller to run the rain sensor's wiring. Then, install relevant wires into controller ports.

**Step 4:** Following instructions provided by your manufacturer for your newly purchased rain sensor, connect each relevant colored wire to its appropriate port.

**Step 5:** Mount the rain sensor in the desired location.

**Step 6:** Reconnect power to your controller. Then, follow manufacturer instructions to ensure the sensor is operational and in good working order.



See the following page for DIY wireless rain sensor installation instructions.

## Instructions for installing wireless rain sensors

**Step 1:** Determine the installation location for your sensor. It is recommend that the sensor be placed in an unobstructed area, close to the landscape.

**Step 2:** Install your receiver using the manufacturer-provided mounting brackets. Mount your receiver in its desired location, ideally on a wall near the controller where it won't be exposed to direct sunlight or water.

**Step 3:** Disconnect power to your controller. Then, locate the controller's sensor ports. You may need to consult your controller's user manual to determine which ports are relevant to your rain sensor.

**Step 4:** Connect each relevant colored wire to its appropriate port by following manufacturer instructions for your newly purchased rain sensor.

**Step 5:** Mount the rain sensor in the desired location.

**Step 6:** Reconnect power to your controller. Then, follow manufacturer instructions to ensure the sensor is operational and in good working order. This often involves locating the "rain sensor" switch on your controller and indicating that it is active.

**\*Did you know?** Residents connected to City of Bozeman water for outdoor watering are eligible to receive a \$50 rebate for the installation of a rain sensor. Visit [www.bozemanwater.com](http://www.bozemanwater.com) to learn more.