

## ***RAIN SHUTOFF DEVICE (RAIN SENSOR)***



### ***What is a rain sensor?***

Rain sensors are small devices that are wired to the irrigation system controller and mounted in an open area where it will receive unobstructed rainfall. Rain sensors are designed to override the cycle of an automatic irrigation cycle when adequate rainfall is received.

### ***Is a rain sensor required?***

Yes. Florida Statute 373.662 requires that “Any person who purchases and installs an automatic lawn sprinkler system after May 1, 1991, shall install, and must maintain and operate, a rain sensor device or switch that will override the irrigation cycle of the sprinkler system when adequate rainfall has occurred”.

### ***Will a rain sensor affect the irrigation schedule of my automatic timer?***

No. The rain sensor simply overrides the cycle until the rain sensors disks or water collection dish dries. The irrigation system's timer will then return to the normal irrigation schedule.

### ***What amount should I set the rain sensor shut off?***

The rain sensor should be set to shut off when 1/2” or less of rainfall has occurred.

### ***Who can install a rain sensor?***

Rain sensors can be installed by homeowners or irrigation professionals.

### ***Where can I purchase a rain sensor for my system?***

City of Apopka water customers can apply to have a free rain sensor issued to them. Also, they can be purchased at irrigation supply stores and most hardware stores. Wireless rain sensors may be necessary if there are many trees near the location of the irrigation timer.

### ***How do I test that my rain sensor is working?***

Test the device by wetting the sensor (with a hose or by pouring water into the sensor). You should not be able to turn on a zone from the timer after enough water has been applied. You can also turn on a zone and see if the zone shuts off after water is applied. \*do not test the rain sensor before a scheduled watering is needed, it will take time for it to dry and allow the system to return to its schedule (unless your timer has a sensor bypass switch).

### ***What are the advantages of having a rain sensor on my automatic irrigation system?***

- Saves you \$\$ - reduces utility bill by interrupting the irrigation system after adequate rainfall.
- Saves your system – reduces wear on the irrigation system because the system runs only when necessary
- Protects your lawn – reduces disease damage by reducing overwatering.
- Conserves Water – Helps promote efficient irrigation practices.
- Helps protect surface and groundwater by reducing the runoff and deep percolation that carries pollutants, such as fertilizers, into storm drains and groundwater.