



# Live Smart. Live Green. Live Well.

Keep green in your pocket and on the planet while adding comfort at home.

## The Irrigation Controller

Effective management of your irrigation system requires some knowledge of your irrigation controller. The controller typically is located in your garage on an outside wall. There are many brands of controllers, but they all work on the same principles. Use your manual and become familiar with it to eliminate your chances of over watering.

### Step 1: Set the days to water.

In the JEA water service area, you can water two days per week. This is a St. Johns River Water Management District rule, and the district suggests Monday/Thursday, Tuesday/Friday or Wednesday/Saturday from April through October. Between November and March, one day a week is sufficient.

### Step 2: Set the zone run times.

As part of its water conservation program, JEA provides a free customer service for all users who have an in-ground irrigation system and who use JEA water for landscape irrigation. Call toll-free, 1-866-664-8644, and make an appointment for a certified irrigation technician to come to your residence to conduct a free irrigation audit. The auditors will determine the exact run times for your application and help you set your system to operate correctly.

### Step 3: Set the start time.

The start time is the time of day the system will start and then run one full cycle. This is a homeowner decision within the limits established by the St. John River Water Management District. Operation of an irrigation system between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. is illegal, and noncompliance is punishable by fine.

### Step 4: Set the correct day and time.

This very simple and sometimes overlooked step can play major havoc with the successful irrigation of your lawn.

### Step 5: Set the water budget.

Set the budget at 100 percent. This selection means the zone run times are operating at the irrigation amounts set on the controller and not a percentage of that irrigation amount. The water budget option generally adds another level of customization (and complexity) that isn't required for the typical homeowner's landscape.

### Step 6: Turn the system on.

Set the dial to the "run" position, and the system will run automatically.

Change your battery every two to three years. If you are uncertain of the age of the battery, change it. This will prevent the controller from reverting to a factory default setting during a power outage. The default setting for most controllers is to water every day. So keeping fresh batteries installed can save water, money – and help keep you legal.

**The controller is the brains of the irrigation system. Keep it working properly and you'll have a beautiful lawn using the least amount of water possible.**





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## Rain Sensor Shut-Off Devices

### What is a rain sensor shut-off device?

The rain sensor shut-off (RSS) device is an integral part of the irrigation system. Whether you use potable, reclaimed or well water to irrigate, a properly installed and maintained RSS is a must. In May 1991, the state of Florida passed legislation (Chapter 373.62 FS) requiring all automatic irrigation systems to have a functional RSS installed.

### How does an RSS operate?

When a predetermined amount of water falls into the cylinder, usually half an inch, the RSS signals the controller to shut the system down until the soil dries out and the plants need more water. A common misconception is that the RSS turns the system off as soon as it starts raining.

### Where should I place my RSS?

For an RSS to be effective, it must be where rain can enter the cylinder easily. Installing the RSS under an eave or under vegetation will adversely affect its operation.

### What maintenance is required?

At least once a year clean the cylinder of any debris by opening the cylinder and removing any obstructions that could cause a malfunction.

### What are the benefits of using an RSS?

Use of a rain sensor shut-off device is a simple, effective way to assure that your landscape receives the proper amount of irrigation.

### An effective RSS

- Conserves water
- Reduces water bills
- Reduces pollution from fertilizer and pesticides
- Promotes a healthy lawn.

