



Smart Controllers



The Division of Water Resources (DWRe) has focused water conservation efforts primarily on residential water use with an emphasis on outdoor landscapes because this category has the greatest potential for water conservation. With 64% of the residential water being used outdoors, Utahns can conserve millions of gallons water annually if they water more efficiently. One of these ways is to use a smart controller that allows homeowners a more efficient way to water using only what the plants actually need. The DWRe already provides a statewide network of weather stations for Utahns to use. The weather stations track ET and tell Utahns in a given region how many times they should water during the week. If you don't yet have a smart controller installed, visit the Lawn Watering Guide online at: www.conservewater.utah.gov to see how many times you should water each week.

Smart Controllers Water to Evapotranspiration (ET)

ET is defined as the amount of water a plant and its environment loses from evaporation and transpiration. Simply put, transpiration is water the plant uses to grow and survive, and evaporation is water lost from the surrounding soil. The factors that affect ET, are temperature, wind, precipitation, humidity and solar radiation. ET is usually expressed in inches of water over a certain time period; commonly, a day, week, month or year. DWRe's main emphasis in water conservation education is for residents to water to the ET requirements of their landscapes as efficiently as possible. Smart controllers can assist residents in accomplishing this. Smart controllers can reduce outdoor water consumption by an average of 15% to 30%!

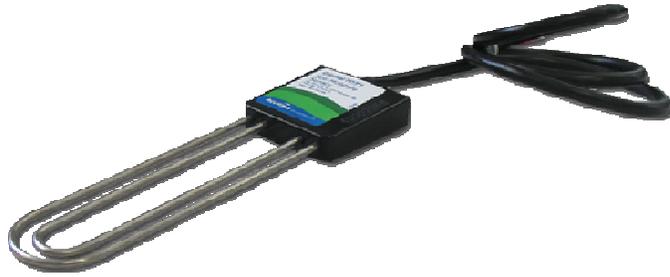


Using localized weather data residents of Utah can water their landscapes the appropriate amount every week!

Smart Controllers Use Weather Stations or Soil Moisture Sensors

Some smart controllers use weather data and local sensors to manage the property's sprinklers. These types of controllers receive data from either sensors and/or weather stations and then turn

the sprinklers on or off based on these weather conditions. These controllers can also turn the sprinklers off in the event of rain, high winds or low temperatures.



In ground soil moisture gauges provide

measure how full that reservoir is. Once the reservoir level drops below a certain level, the probe will turn the sprinklers on and re-fill the soil storage reservoir. These types of smart controllers can also turn off sprinklers during rain events.

Other smart controllers use soil moisture probes that measure how much water is in the soil. As you water your landscape, imagine that there is a reservoir of water under the ground and you are filling it up. The soil moisture probe will

Smart Controllers Automatically Adjust Sprinkler Schedule

Once a smart controller is properly installed, the controller will automatically regulate your sprinkler system. This means that you will no longer have to adjust your sprinkler times and duration for seasonal changes and will still have a healthy beautiful lawn! Watering plants with the correct amount of water that is required by the plant, is the healthiest way to grow plants.

Smart Controllers Help Save and Maintain Healthy Landscapes

Plants only require a certain amount of water to maintain health. Too much water, can actually damage your grass. Overwatering promotes fungal growth and insect activity. A smart controller can eliminate over watering.

Smart Controllers Cost

Smart controllers can cost anywhere from \$100 to several thousand dollars, seeming to be an expensive investment. However, when you consider what you are saving in both monthly water charges and water, a smart controller can have a fairly fast payback time frame.

Companies that Make Smart Controllers

- Acclima
- Accurate Weather Set
- Accuwater
- Alex-tronics
- Aqua Conserve
- Baseline
- Calsense
- Dynamax
- ET Water Systems
- Hunter
- Hydropoint-Weather Trak
- Irrisoft-Weather Reach
- Irritrol
- Irrrometer
- Rain Bird
- Rain Master Irrigation System
- Signature Controls
- Toro
- WCS Hydrosaver
- Water 2 Save

As we plan for the future of Utah's water it is important to remember that every drop counts. If we each save a little we'll all save a lot!