Rain Sensor Requirements

In April 2008, the Derby City Council passed an ordinance requiring mandatory use of rains sensors in automatic irrigation systems. Since May 2008, rain sensors have been required for all new residential and commercial irrigations systems. Residents and business owners with existing automatic irrigation systems (both well water and city water) are also required to have a rain sensor.

What is a rain sensor?

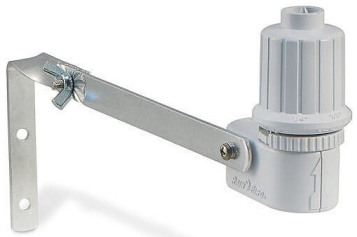
A rain sensor is an electronic device that measures rainfall and interrupts the automatic irrigation cycle. The sensor turns off the system when a predetermined amount of rain has fallen. Sensors are mounted above ground in an open area well suited for gauging rain. According Derby's ordinance, rain sensors need to be set to turn off your automatic irrigation system when 1/2 inch or more rain has fallen. Residents can adjust sensors to a lower setting.

Why is this required?

As a public water supplier, the City of Derby makes water conservation a priority. Water is an increasingly valuable resource that should not be wasted. The City of Derby encourages residents and business owners to make water conservation a priority as well.

What do rain sensors look like?

There are two kinds of rain sensors - wireless and hard-wired.



Where can I buy a rain sensor?

Rain sensors can be found at most area garden centers. You may also research different products available online. If you use a landscaping company or sprinkler system service provider, you may ask them for assistance.

How much do rain sensors cost?

Rain sensors generally cost between $20 and $60. Installation can be performed by either the property owner or by a sprinkler system service provider (who will charge a fee for services). You may choose between a wireless or hard-wired rain sensor.

If you have questions, call the City of Derby at 788-1424 or visit DerbyKS.com/rainsensors.

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Water Conservation Tips for Your Garden & Yard

- Water in the morning to cut down on evaporation.
- Add compost to your soil to improve its water-holding capacity. Mulch acts as a blanket to keep in moisture and help prevent soil erosion, soil compression and weeds.
- Check for and repair leaky hose connections and sprinkler valves.
- Water trees and shrubs, which have deep root systems, longer and less frequently than shallow-rooted plants, which require smaller amounts of water more often.
- Porous paving materials, such as brick, decomposed granite, and gravel used in patios and walk-ways help keep water in the garden.