

Product FAQ: Rain Dial

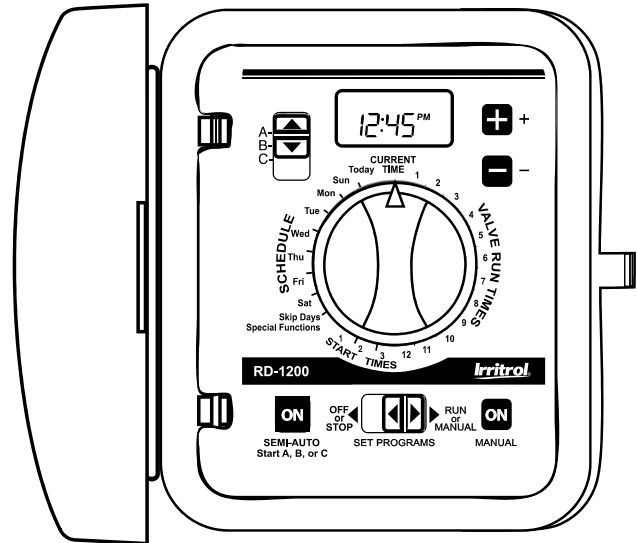
* Specific to Rain Dial

Q* - What does the blinking FUS code mean?

A. - The controller may have detected an overload of the amperage allowed (For example, a shorted solenoid, a shorted wiring or a high end surge or spike).

How to reset the FUS code on a Rain Dial Controller?

If the “FUS” warning does not go away after pressing either the Plus (+) or Minus (-) Buttons, follow the instructions below:



1. While the controller is power-up, disconnect the “Ribbon Cable” from the socket on the terminal board.
2. Disconnect the 9 volt battery.
3. Set the “PROGRAM” switch to “B”
4. Set the “MODE” Switch to Set Program (Middle) position between “OFF & RUN”.
5. Hold down the “MANUAL” button while reconnecting the ribbon cable.
6. Reset Current Time.

Q* - What does an “OF 2” message mean and how do we get rid of it?

A. - OF 2 means the controller is set on a Rain delay mode for 2 days. This rain delay feature will not allow the controller to run until 2 days have past.

To reset or turn this feature off:

1. Slide the set program switch to the “OFF” position.
2. Press the minus button 2 times (for example, if the display reads OF 5 then press the minus button 5 times to deactivate the rain delay mode).

GENERAL IRRIGATION FAQ'S

Q. - My Controller runs its normal cycle then starts all over and runs the cycle again?

A. - This occurs when more than one start time is used. Most commonly because

of a misunderstanding that each Zone needed its own start time. This is not the case. Start Times are for your programs (A, B, C, D, or S). For example, if all of your valves are assigned to one program (A), then they will each run once for every Start Time you give to program A. If you set start time 1 in program A they will each run once, if you set Start Time 2 in program A, then they will each run twice. Remember that the valves will not all activate at the Start Times you have set, zone 1 will come on first, then when it has completed its run, zone 2 will run, then zone 3, etc. If your controller runs longer than expected, the other possibility is that the controller was set to run for 10 Hours (10:00) rather than 10 minutes (00:10) in the zone Run Time.

Q. - Why does the controller display short on all stations?

A. – If you are using a master valve or pump start relay, the input amperage of the Solenoid or Relay is higher than the controller output. If you are not using the master valve/pump start output, there could be a direct short in the field wires or the controller circuit board has a short.

Q. - My sprinkler system works, but why are some parts of my yard real green, and some are almost dead?

A. - Sometimes a sprinkler system has not been designed properly to provide adequate coverage for your yard. To achieve the best results, the spray pattern from each spray head should overlap the spray patterns of the heads next to it. Irritrol recommends overlapping the spray patterns 100% of the radius (50% of the diameter). You accomplish this overlap by spacing the heads at the distance they will spray (i.e. - if your heads spray 10 feet, space them 10 feet apart). This constitutes what is known as "Head-to-Head" coverage, which evenly distributes water across your yard. Applying "head-to-head" coverage may result in what seems like a lot of spray heads, but this technique can actually save you quite a bit in water bills over the years. You will not need to run your system as long in order to get sufficient water coverage. The combination of the right heads with the proper spacing should result in balanced water distribution, and ultimately a beautiful looking lawn you can enjoy.

Q. - Can I run my underground sprinkler system from a hose bib?

A. - Usually not. A sprinkler system normally uses quite a bit of water, measured in gallons per minute (GPM). Most sprinkler zones will use from 8 to 15 GPM as they operate. A hose bib cannot supply nearly that amount of water, due to the size limitations within the hose bib itself, and often due of the size of the pipe running to the hose bib. You will need to measure the available GPM at the hose bib to see how many heads can run at one time (each head operates at a specific GPM). Refer to this website to measure your PSI & GPM.
www.irrigationtutorials.com/sprinkler03.htm

Q. - Can I upgrade my mechanical timer to an electric one?

A. - Yes. Both the mechanical and computerized timers install in much the same way. Just follow the installation instructions that come with your new timer.

Q. - What is the difference between "Start Time" and "Run Time" on my timer?

A. - A sprinkler timer generally requires 3 important settings before it will operate: Start Time, Run Time, and Days to Water. Since they are all necessary, let's look at all three.

* **Start Time** refers to the time of day that the sprinklers will begin watering. Start times tell the timer at what time to start each watering program, rather than how long to run each sprinkler zone. The timer will run each zone sequentially, one after the other, at each start time, and for the duration you have specified. When one zone is finished, the next one will start. This is called a complete Cycle. The Start Time is the point in time that the Cycle starts. If you want the same series of valves to run more than once in the same 24 hour period, you must assign a second start time to that program.

* **Run Time** is the length of time that each zone will run. Run times are assigned to each program. They tell the timer how long to run each zone. Different timers will allow slightly different run times, but all of them will be set in terms of minutes.

* **Days to Water** refer to the days of the week that your system will run. Some timers enable you to choose specific days of the week, such as Monday/ Wednesday/ Friday, while with others you choose Every Day/ Every Other Day/ Every Third Day, etc.

To sum it all up, on the programmed Days to Water, at the programmed Start Time, the timer will start a watering Cycle, running each programmed zone for its appropriate Run Time.

Q. - I have a computerized sprinkler timer. We often have power outages in my area, and when I come home, I have to re-program it all over again. Shouldn't it hold the program in memory?

A. - A computerized sprinkler timer should have a battery back-up to maintain the program during a power outage. Check behind the front panel of the timer (there is usually an access panel) where you should find connections for 9 volt, AAA, or AA batteries. Read any instructions you may find, since some timers require rechargeable batteries, while others require alkaline. Connecting a good battery should solve your problem, assuming your power outages are not so long and so often that your battery can not keep up (a new battery should normally last about a year).

Q. - Sometimes my sprinklers don't shut off. When I go turn off the main valve, and then turn it back on they remain off. Can you help?

A. - The next time the zone will not shut down, unplug your timer. If the watering stops, you have a problem with your timer and should have it checked or replaced. If after the timer is unplugged the sprinklers still do not stop running, you may have a stuck valve. If you're not sure which valve controls the running sprinklers, feel the valves, and you should be able to tell which valve water is running through. Some valves will have a flow control feature, (i.e. - a shutoff on the valve, which might look like a knob, tee handle, or sometimes like a screw

head on the top of the valve). If your valve does have this flow control feature, try shutting it off by turning the flow control handle. If the zone shuts off, you've found the right one. There are two things will typically cause a stuck valve. The first is debris, like a rock or stick, which has become lodged under the valve diaphragm (i.e.- a large rubber disk inside the valve), or the other is that the valve's diaphragm itself is faulty or damaged, becoming hard or cracked due to age or water conditions. Either problem will require shutting off the water supply to the valve, disassembling the valve, and correcting the problem by either clearing the debris or replacing the diaphragm.

Q. - I need to replace a couple of old sprinkler valves. How can I tell the direction of flow on a valve?

A. - Most valves are marked with an arrow showing the direction of flow, with the main supply line being connected to the input side, and the sprinkler lateral line being connected to the output side. If you are unable to find an arrow, you should be able to apply a couple rules of thumb. One is that the solenoid is normally placed on the outlet side. The other is that when you disassemble the valve and look inside, the side that is beneath the diaphragm seat is normally the input side. Finally, if you have an anti-siphon valve (i.e. - a valve with a built in vacuum breaker), the vacuum breaker is always on the outlet side.

Q. - I am installing a new sprinkler system, but am having trouble figuring out where the solenoid wires to the automatic valves go? Is one HOT and one GROUND?

A. - With Irritrol and most other types of solenoids, either wire can be connected to the Control (i.e. - Hot) wire or to the Common wire. One Control wire from each valve will hook to a separate Station (i.e. - Zone) terminal on the timer. These terminals should be marked 1, 2, 3 ... etc. depending on how many Stations your timer has (normally 4, 6, 9... etc.). The other wire from each valve will connect to with a wire which is connected to all of the other valves in your system. This wire is appropriately called the Common wire; since it is connected to all of the valves in common (it is best not to call this wire the Ground, since it should not be connected to Ground at any point). This Common wire is then connected to the terminal on the timer labeled "Com " or "Common".

Q. - When I turn my automatic valve on manually, why does water come out of the bleed screw? Is it leaking?

A. - No, what you have described is normal. The reason for turning the bleed screw is to release some pressure, and therefore some water, from the top of the valve's diaphragm, which causes the diaphragm to open and water to pass through the valve. Once you close the bleed screw, it should stop seeping water, and the valve should close.

Q. - I have brass sprinklers in my yard, but when I went to the store to replace one that was broken, they mostly had plastic ones. Which ones are better, brass or plastic?

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A. - That is sometimes an area of debate, since people normally expect metal to be better than plastic. But that is not necessarily the case with sprinkler systems. The introduction of PVC and other plastic formulations to the sprinkler industry revolutionized sprinkler products, making lightweight, inexpensive and highly efficient components possible. Today's plastic sprinkler heads generally do a better job distributing water while providing long life, all at a lower price. The higher pop-up heights found with plastic valves enable the spray to clear tall grass, providing more even coverage and eliminating the green "donuts" you often see around non-pop-up or low pop-up brass "mushroom-style" heads. It also eliminates the need to trim around the heads, since you can let the grass grow and mow right over a properly installed Irritrol 2" or 4" pop-up head.

Q. - How many sprinkler heads can I run off one valve?

A. - The number of sprinkler heads you can run at one time depends on:

- * The amount of water each head uses, measured in Gallons Per Minute (GPM).
- * The amount of water you have available at the valve, also measured in GPM.
- * The water pressure at your property, measured in Pounds Per Square Inch (PSI)
- * The size of the piping you will be using.

As you can see, this is not easily answered, since these factors vary for each system. To help find the answers go to this website

www.irrigationtutorials.com/sprinkler03.htm

Q. - How can I obtain an owners' manual?

A. – www.irritrol.com see user guides

Q. - How do I reset my Irritrol controller?

A. – Go to www.irritrol.com and download the user guide

Q. - Why won't my controller turn on a station or program?

A. – Check to see if the water is turned on to the irrigation system. Do this by following the instructions below. If the valve operates manually then you may have a broken or faulty common connection of the field wire.

Q. - How do I manually open a zone control valve without using the controller?

A. – Most zone control valve have a manual bleed mechanism on the cap or below the solenoid.

Q. - I have a broken sprinkler in my yard from another brand. Can this be upgraded to an Irritrol sprinkler?

A. – Yes but you have to replace it with a similar model i.e. Spray or Rotor type sprinkler using the same gallons per minute (GPM) output.

Q. - How do I clean debris from my irrigation valve?

A. – Remove the Solenoid being careful not to lose the spring and plunger. Remove the bonnet/cap and the from the valve and clean and inspect the rubber diaphragm and the verify no dirt or pebbles are present. Re-install diaphragm, cap, and solenoid. Tip: use controller to activate solenoid to hold spring and plunger in place while installing solenoid. Diaphragms may need to be changed even though they appear to have no wear.

Q. - What should I do when it rains?

A. – Most controllers have a rain delay feature which allows you to pause the system up to 7-9 Days. Check your user guide to see if your controller has this feature. If your controller does not have this feature turn the controller to the off position. Do not leave the controller in the off position longer than two weeks however.

Q. - Can Irritrol install my sprinkler system?

A. – No we do not provide that service. Check your local Irritrol Distributor or Yellow pages under Contractor/Landscape.

Q. - How do I adjust the arc on my gear drive sprinklers?

A. – Check website to attain user guide, never turn a sprinkler in the opposite direction it is turning, it will damage the drive assembly resulting in non-rotation

Q. - How do I replace a product under warranty?

A. – Take them back to where they were purchased or contact you local distributor for replacement.