



# SMARTER WATER, STRONGER SAVINGS!

## GETTING TO KNOW SMART IRRIGATION CONTROLLERS

- From 2020-2024 the Water Authority conducted a Smart Controller Study to investigate and evaluate the ease of use for homeowners with high water landscapes and to evaluate the water savings of using a residential Smart Controller.
- Our study shows residents with traditional landscaping saved about \$150 per year, or about 20% in landscape irrigation costs by installing a smart irrigation controller.
- Popular models cost around \$150, and with a 25% rebate on qualifying models, your investment pays for itself in less than a year—thanks to water savings alone!

Explore the Water Authority's smart controller rebate by visiting [www.505Outside.com](http://www.505Outside.com).

The rebate is a 25% rebate, up to \$100.00 and includes the purchase and professional installation of a smart controller.






### CUSTOM ADJUSTABLE SETTINGS & WHY THEY ARE IMPORTANT

To get the most benefit from your smart controller these are the critical elements the smart controller model needs to account for. Smart controllers that allow for adjustments will better account for the conditions in your yard. Below are typical terms used by manufacturers for those settings.

- **Soil Type/Soil:** Adjustments to this setting will usually change both frequency of watering (how often) and time watering (how long) based on how water typically travels in a particular soil type. Sandy soil usually requires watering more often, but for less time, because the water travels out of the root zone quickly. Clay soil needs watering less frequently, but for a longer time, because it has greater holding capacity.
- **Vegetation/Plant Type/Plant Cover:** Adjustments to this setting usually change the duration of watering (how long) and may also change the frequency (how often) based on the average root depth for the type of plant. Typically, trees have feeder roots that are 12-30" deep so they need to be watered longer than grass with roots that are usually 3-9" deep. Some controllers let you choose a root depth in addition to plant type.
- **Sprinkler Type/Sprinklers:** This setting adjusts how long to water. This is because each type of sprinkler nozzle has a set amount of water it applies over a specific amount of time (gallons per minute or gallons per hour). Fixed spray heads (these look like a fan of water) put down the most water per minute. Rotary nozzles (these look like rotating "fingers" of water) apply water at a slower rate, improving application efficiency compared to rotors (usually used in parks and sports fields). Drip irrigation and bubblers vary in the specific amounts of water applied in a specific location.
- **Slope:** Slope affects how quickly water can run off a surface, creating runoff. The steeper the slope is, the quicker water will run off instead of soaking in. The slope setting usually dictates whether the zone can be set up for a "cycle and soak" function. Cycle and soak breaks up the total amount of time needed to water into small amounts, with time between for the water to soak in, reducing water waste through run off.
- **Sun/Exposure:** This setting usually adjusts both the frequency (how often) and duration of watering (how long). Areas that are consistently shaded for several hours require less water, while those that receive long periods of direct sunlight will require additional water. This setting can also be used to accommodate for areas that experience consistent high winds. In those conditions, setting the controller to a full-sun setting, even if the area is shaded, is appropriate because high winds can cause plants to need additional water.

**PRO TIP 1: CHOOSING A CONTROLLER THAT LETS YOU SELECT THE WEATHER STATION YOU CONNECT TO IS REALLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE THE ALBUQUERQUE METRO AREA CAN EXPERIENCE WILDLY DIFFERNT WEATHER WITHIN A QUARTER MILE AREA. IF YOUR POWER GOES OUT YOU MAY NEED TO RESET YOUR WEATHER STATION SETTING.**

## BESTSELLING SMART IRRIGATION CONTOLLERS, ABQ METRO AREA (2025)

		Lets You Choose the Nearest Weather Station for Live Data	Adjustable Soil Type Settings	Adjustable Plant Type Settings	Adjustable Sprinkler Type Settings	Adjustable Slope Settings	Adjustable Sun/ Exposure Settings
	<b>RACHIO 3</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	<b>ORBIT B-HYVE 57995</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	<b>ORBIT B-HYVE 57950</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	<b>HUNTER X2 WITH WAND</b>	<b>Paid Subscription</b>	✓	✓	<b>No*</b>	✓	✓
	<b>HUNTER HPC400</b>	<b>Paid Subscription</b>	✓	✓	<b>No*</b>	✓	✓

\* Hunter does not have “Sprinkler Type” settings; they require you to choose an efficiency percentage (%) which functions similarly.

**PRO TIP 2: MAKE SURE THE SMART CONTROLLER YOU CHOOSE WILL CONNECT TO YOUR WI-FI. MANY SMART CONTROLLERS CAN'T CONNECT TO 5.0 GHZ WI-FI. THE RACHIO 3 AND ORBIT B-HYVE 57995 ARE TWO SMART CONTROLLERS THAT CONNECT TO 5.0 GHZ. THE RACHIO 3 IS THE ONLY SMART CONTROLLER THAT CONNECTS TO BOTH 2.4 GHZ AND 5.0 GHZ WI-FI.**

**Find out more detailed information on irrigation by visiting [www.505Outside.com](http://www.505Outside.com) or send an email question to [askanexpert@abcwua.org](mailto:askanexpert@abcwua.org).**