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Rain Sensor Setup

Hydrawise supports standard open/closed contact rain sensors and soil moisture sensors. In fact, you can use any generic type of sensor that has an open/close contact.

These sensors use two wires and are usually labeled as normally open (sometimes called NO) or normally closed (sometimes called NC).

A rain sensor is usually used to suspend watering cycles for a zone (or zones). However, you can also create your own custom sensor types to start irrigation or for other advanced applications. See Creating a Custom Sensor [1] for more information.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>HUNTER CLIK</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rain Sensor (Normally Open)</td>
<td>A standard rain sensor (use this if you have wired the rain sensor’s normally open wire to the controller)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rain Sensor (Normally Closed)</td>
<td>A standard rain sensor (use this if you have wired the rain sensor’s normally closed wire to the controller)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil Moisture Sensor (Normally Open)</td>
<td>A standard soil moisture sensor (use this if you have wired the soil moisture sensor’s normally open wire to the controller)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil Moisture Sensor (Normally Closed)</td>
<td>A standard soil moisture sensor (use this if you have wired the soil moisture sensor’s normally closed wire to the controller)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The sensor wires need to be cabled back to the controller and connected to the SEN inputs in the controller. See chart below for wiring standard rain sensors.
Once you’ve wired your rain sensor, configure it in your Hydrawise account as shown below.

To configure a sensor in the Hydrawise software, follow the steps below.

1. Log in to your HYDRAWISE account
2. Click the $\text{\ HARDWARE}$ icon in the upper left.
3. Click SENSORS.
4. Continue with creating a sensor and assigning the zones.

Creating a Sensor

1. Create a new sensor by clicking ADD SENSOR TO CONTROLLER.
2. Choose the SENSOR NAME.
3. Choose the type of sensor (most Hunter sensors are normally closed).
4. Change the controller input to SEN.
5. Click NEXT.
Assigning the Zones

1. Select the **ZONES** that you want the sensor to shut down when triggered.
2. Click **OK**.

Flow Meter Setup

Flow meters measure the amount of water going onto each zone. This is really useful for understanding water usage and monitoring issues such as broken pipes. Hydrawise reporting allows you to see how much water is used for each zone and how much water is used across your system.
With a flow meter, you can also create alerts for flow issues, which will keep you up to date on what’s happening (particularly important for unattended homes). See Creating Alerts for more information.

**Wiring**

Flow meters are supplied with detailed installation instructions attached at the bottom of this article. Two-wire cable is required. The cable required to connect your flow meter must be dedicated to the flow meter and not shared with the common wire of the valves or other sensors. The cable gauge is determined by the total length of cable between the controller and the flow meter. The general rule is that 0.5 mm (20 GA) wire is good for a run of up to 240’. Connect the wires to your Hydrawise controller.

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**Sensor Configuration**

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There are a few steps to configure your flow meter in the application online.

1. Log in to the Hydrawise app.
2. From the HOME screen, select the icon in the upper left.
3. Select SENSORS.
4. Click ADD SENSOR TO CONTROLLER.
5. Fill out the sensor details. Choose the sensor NAME, TYPE OR SENSOR (refer to the label on the box for correct meter model), and the CONTROLLER input (refer to wiring diagram above). You also have the option to create a custom sensor.
6. Once you’ve created your sensor, SELECT THE ZONES that will apply to that sensor. The zones selected will move below into the selected section.
Custom Sensor Setup

In some cases you may have the need to create a custom sensor in your Hydrawise account.

Some examples of custom sensor types are below:
- A flow meter of a different size to the standard Hydrawise flow meters.
- A sensor to conform to restrictions that specify no watering for a minimum period of time after rain is detected.
- A sensor to start irrigation if motion is detected (Enthusiast Plan only)

To add a custom sensor type, go to Sensors and click on Add Custom Sensor Type. Give the sensor a name and choose its type as outlined below. **Flow Meter** Liters per pulse: The number of liters of water expected to pass through the flow sensor per flow meter pulse (you can get this information from your flow meter’s specifications) **Normally Open Sensor/Normally Closed Sensor** Sensor Action: Whether the sensor should cause a zone to start or stop. **Start a Zone** If the zone should start, choose the minimum number of seconds before the sensor can cause the same zone to start again. **Stop a Zone** If the zone should stop, choose the number of seconds to delay before stopping the zone, and how long the zone should be disabled. For example, some watering restrictions require that if rain is detected, sprinklers should not run for at least two days.

### Custom Setup Example

![Custom Setup Example](image)

What does the sensor status
mean?

Please reference the chart below for the different sensor status’s when the sensor state is changed once you've successfully set up your sensor through the Hydrawise application.

**NOTE:** Normally closed (Default Setup) all hunter clik sensors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sensor Status</th>
<th>Dry - Not Stopping Irrigation</th>
<th>Water</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GREEN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RED</td>
<td>Wet - Stopping Irrigation</td>
<td>No Water</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** A good example would be a simple switch where closed would represent **ON** position and open would mean the **OFF** position.

For more information on configuring sensors, check our guide [here](#).

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**Can I use a soil sensor?**

Yes, using a soil sensor with Hydrawise works on all models of controllers.

The Soil-Clik simplifies soil moisture sensing. The Soil-Clik probe uses proven technology
to measure moisture within the root zone. When the probe senses that the soil has reached its desired moisture level, it will shut down irrigation, preventing water waste.

Soil-Clik has two components: A moisture sensor probe, which is placed in the soil, and an electronic module, which communicates with the probe and the controller. The probe is easy to install – simply bury it to the correct root depth for your plant material. It can be placed up to 1000 feet from the controller. Easy push button operation allows adjustments to the desired moisture level, with an immediate update of actual measurements. From more information, see documents page here. [5]

Hydrawise has the soil sensor already setup in the App. Using the default soil sensor setting will prevent irrigation when the soil is wet. Alternatively, you can create a custom sensor to start irrigation when the sensor is dry. From more information, see support article here [8] for setup.
Can I install my own personal weather station?

Yes, but installing your own weather station is not a requirement for using a Hydrawise controller. The vast majority of customers use one of the 25,000 weather stations already available to each Hydrawise controller. You may have already realized that the Hydrawise irrigation system is driven in part by temperature, rainfall measurements, and predictions sourced from a weather network called Weather Underground.

Worldwide, the network has tens of thousands of privately owned and operated weather stations that contribute data to be shared by all. During setup of your Hydrawise controller, you would normally select three or more nearby stations for temperature and rainfall calculations and decisions. Since Weather Underground is an open network, you have the option of setting up your own weather station to report and share weather data with others. It is relatively easy and inexpensive to do so.

There are a few possible reasons to set up your own station:

- You don’t have any nearby stations to select from.
You want your observations to be as accurate as possible. You have other uses for the local climate information.

There is a wide range of weather stations available on the market suitable for uploading weather data to Weather Underground. The following link provides the most common Stations. [7]

The different brands offer different measurements, accuracy, and build quality. Consequently, they vary in price from about $100 (U.S. dollars) to $1,000. They generally measure the following parameters:

- Indoor temperature and humidity
- Outdoor temperature and humidity
- Rainfall
- Wind speed
- Wind direction
- Atmospheric pressure

You can refer to this link for the exact steps to register your personal weather station. Weather Underground [8]

Please allow 24-48 hours for the weather station to appear within your Hydrawise account. We can upgrade you to the free PWS plan so you have access to your own weather station. Contact Us [9]

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**How can I Bypass my Rain Sensor?**

In some cases where the sensor may not be working properly or not set correctly, you may want to temporarily turn off all the zones or specific zones.

**Bypassing Sensor for All Zones**

1. Log in to your HYDRAWISE account
2. Click the 🗝️ icon in the upper left. Skip this step on a PC.
3. Click SENSORS.
4. Click on the 🎉 icon under the active sensor.
5. Scroll down to the **CONTROLLER INPUT**.
6. Change the controller input to **UNASSIGNED**.
7. Click **OK**.

The sensor is now turned off until you switch back the controller input setting.

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**Bypassing Specific Zones**

1. Log in to your **HYDRAWISE** account
2. Click the 💼 icon in the upper left. Skip this step on a PC.
3. Click **SENSORS**.
4. Click on the 📏 icon under the active sensor.
5. Scroll down and select **NEXT**.
6. In the selected zones section, select the **ZONES** that you would like to continue watering if the sensor is activated. This will move them up to the available zones section.
7. Click **OK**.
Does the Solar Sync Sensor Work with Hydrawise?

The Hunter SOLAR SYNC sensor hardware is not compatible with the Hydrawise software. We do offer the VIRTUAL SOLAR SYNC watering type option in both Standard and Advanced modes.

This operates the same way as the Hunter SOLAR SYNC by adjusting the run time per zone. It uses daily Evapotranspiration (ET) from your selected weather stations instead of on-site ET so it does not require on-site Solar Sync sensor installation. If no weather station ET is available, then it will fall back to using forecast ET and historical ET. The virtual Solar Sync makes its adjustments based on the rolling average of the last three days of data.

Please visit this support section for setup details.

Using Virtual Solar Sync in Standard Mode
Using Virtual Solar Sync in Advanced Mode