

CHOOSING A SMART IRRIGATION CONTROLLER

There are many different manufacturers and models of smart controllers. Choosing the right one for you may depend on many factors, including:

- Are you a DIY'er or will you have a gardener managing your irrigation?
- How complex is your landscaping?
- Are you replacing an existing controller or adding "smart" capability to an existing controller?
- Will your controller be mounted inside or out?
- Do you have wifi access where you want to mount your controller?

Cost:

The cost for smart controllers ranges from approximately \$200 to more than \$1000. Some require an annual subscription fee of \$50 or more to access weather information; others provide that capability for free. Fortunately, this is a dynamic area with lots of new market entrants. It is not difficult to find a good solution at the lower end of the price scale. Cal Water provides a rebate of \$125 for the purchase of a smart controller off of their approved [list](#).

DIY?

If you plan to have a gardening service manage your irrigation, you should consult with your service on the selection and setup of your smart controller. They may have specific preferences based on prior experience. If you would like to hire someone to select, install, and program a smart controller, please refer to the [Water Savvy list](#) to find a list of experienced contractors that you can choose from.

Which smart controller is best?

Since PV households have different needs, it is not possible to recommend one smart controller that is likely to be suitable for every household. There are many different choices available. Here is a link to Cal Water's complete smart controller approved [list](#). The Committee has reviewed the complete list, which is extremely long and for convenience is providing a shorter list:

[OnPoint Ecosystems WaterSage](#)

[Hunter Wireless Solar Sync](#)

[Rachio Iro](#)

[RainMachine](#)

[Skydrop](#)

(By providing this shorter list, the Town is not specifically endorsing, recommending or promoting any specific controller)