

# Essentials of Irrigation Efficiency

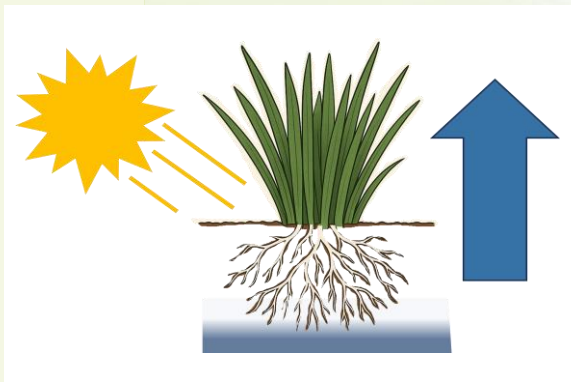
## 1. Weather-Based Irrigation Controller



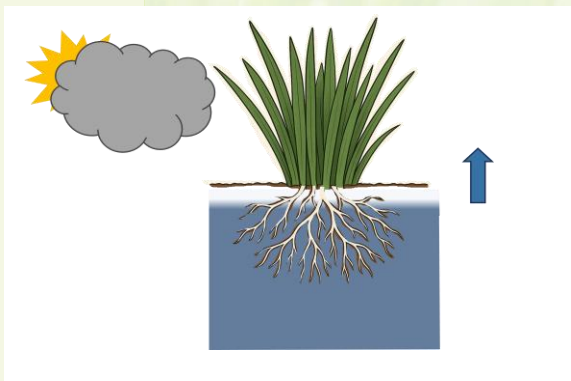
**Connects to local weather data and compares recent weather to plant needs.**

See [SWSD.org/outdoor-water-budget](http://SWSD.org/outdoor-water-budget) for weather-based controller options for residential and commercial properties.

With proper programming, the controller knows how much water has been taken up by the plants in each zone and when irrigation is needed.



**High** Evapotranspiration (ET)  
**High** Irrigation Need



**Low** Evapotranspiration (ET)  
**Low** Irrigation Need

**Did you know?** Turf grass in Snowmass in mid-September needs 60% of the water it needs in mid-July.

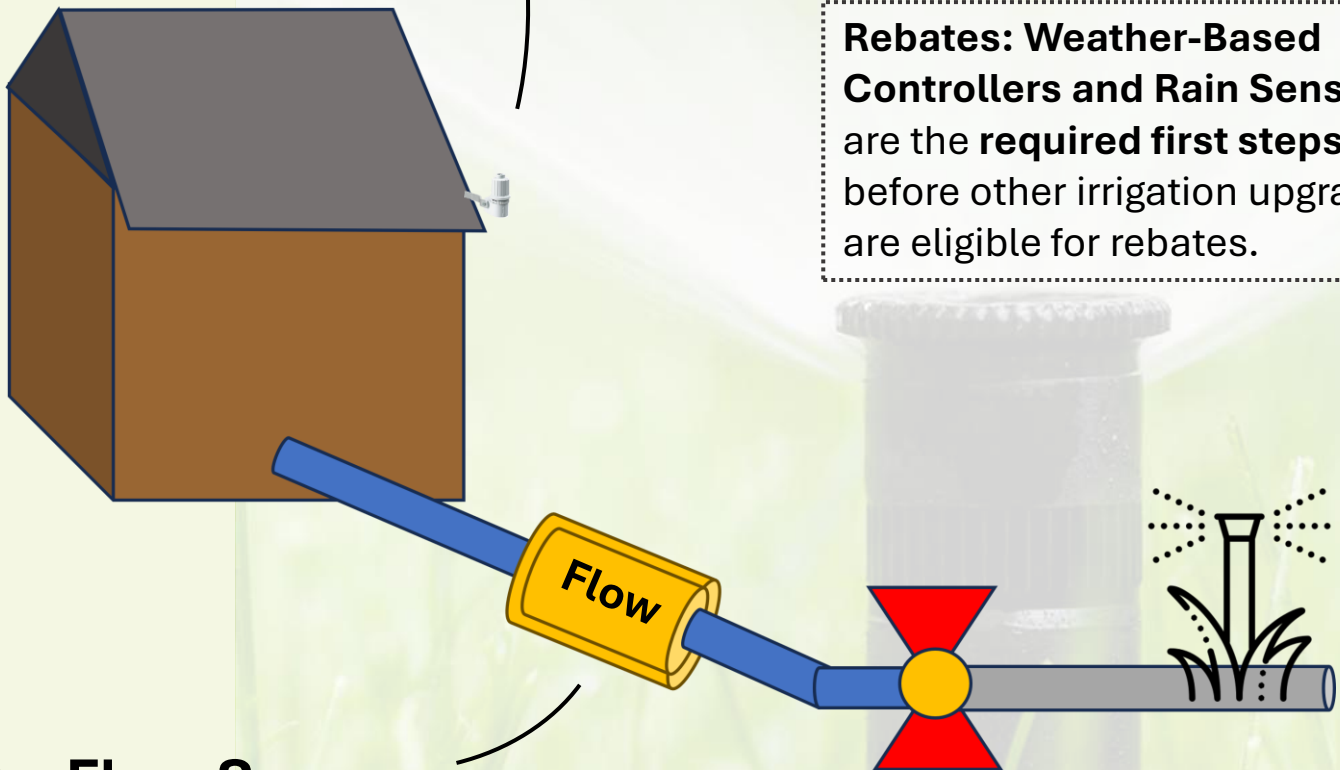
## 2. Rain Sensor



The sensor absorbs water when it rains and shuts off the irrigation when a set amount of precipitation has fallen.

Check to make sure you have a rain sensor and that it is connected. They can be adjusted for sensitivity and for how long irrigation is delayed.

**Rebates: Weather-Based Controllers and Rain Sensors** are the **required first steps** before other irrigation upgrades are eligible for rebates.



## 3. Flow Sensor

Sends flow information to the controller to interpret:

- “There’s continuous flow- likely a leak!”
- “Zone 3 is using way more water than it usually does- maybe a broken head!”

## 4. Master Valve

Shuts OFF flow when instructed by the controller:

- Useful for stopping large leaks that can drain thousands of gallons *per hour*.

## 5. Avoid mixed hydrozones:

Sprinkler zones should be separated by major plant type, so that low water use plants are not over-irrigated.



**Irrigate this separately!**

*Turf needs 3x more water than landscape beds.*

Contact SWSD for more information about our turf replacement program with a \$2/sq ft rebate up to 3000 sq ft.

## 6. Check for waste:



**Some waste is easier to spot...**

**...and overwatering is waste!**

## 7. More Efficient Sprinkler Heads

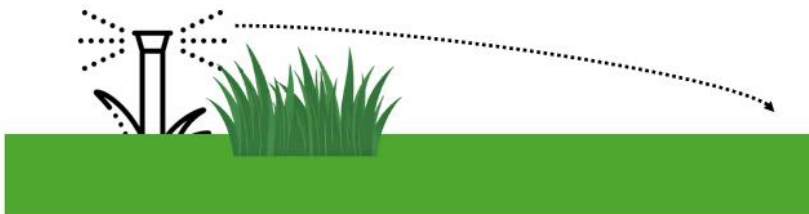
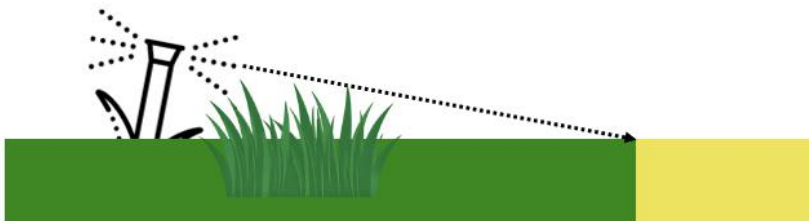


Change out old heads that do not spray uniformly, or mist excessively

More even coverage =  
**MORE EFFICIENT** use of water



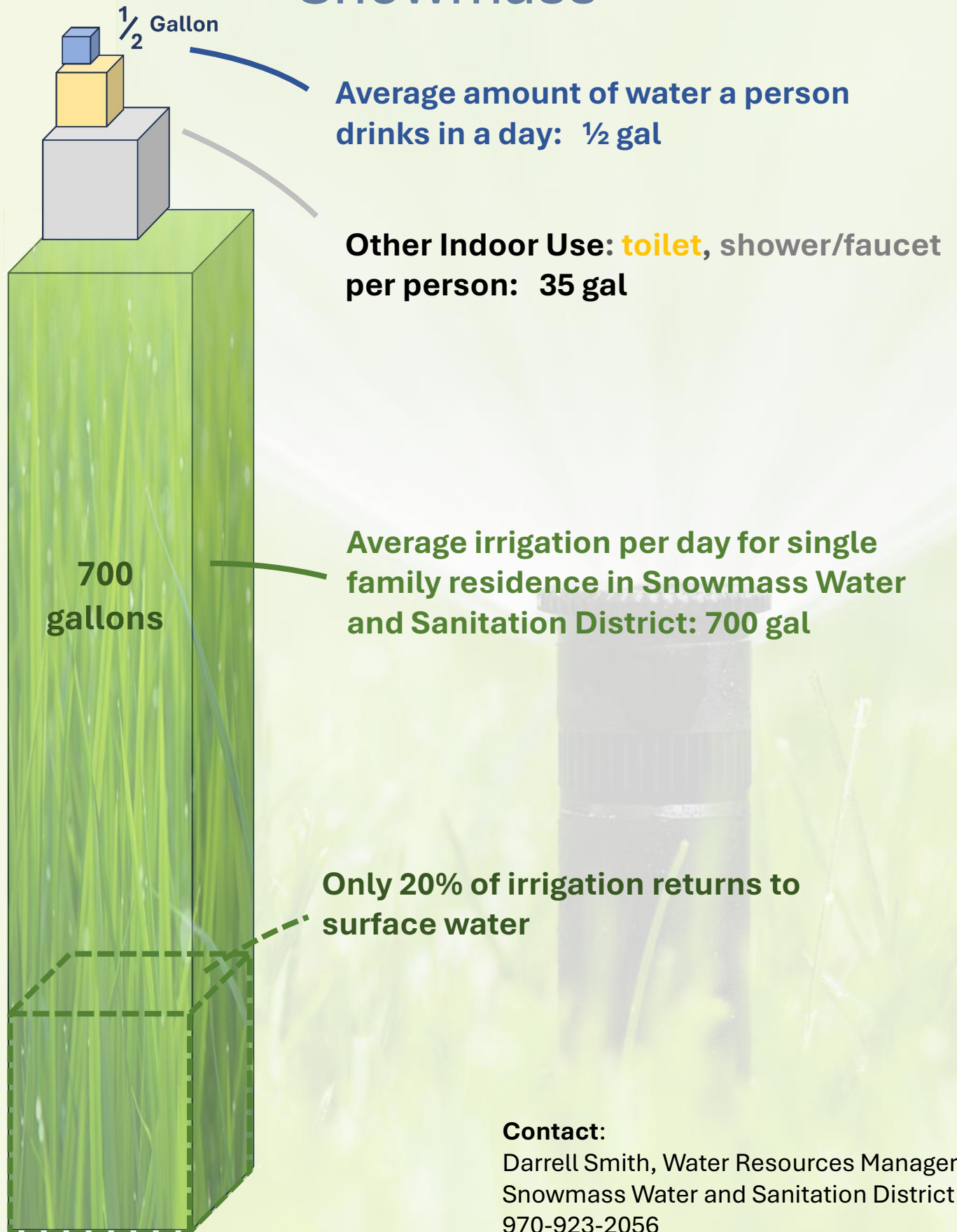
## 8. Even Coverage



**Dry spots can occur from tilted heads, poor head spacing, or low pressure.** The solution is to improve evenness of coverage, not increasing run times!

**Make sure that your landscape contract includes regular wet checks. Each zone should be turned on periodically to look for leaks or other coverage issues.**

# Typical Water Consumption in Snowmass



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