



# Rachio 8ZULW-C SMART SPRINKLER CONTROLLER USER MANUAL

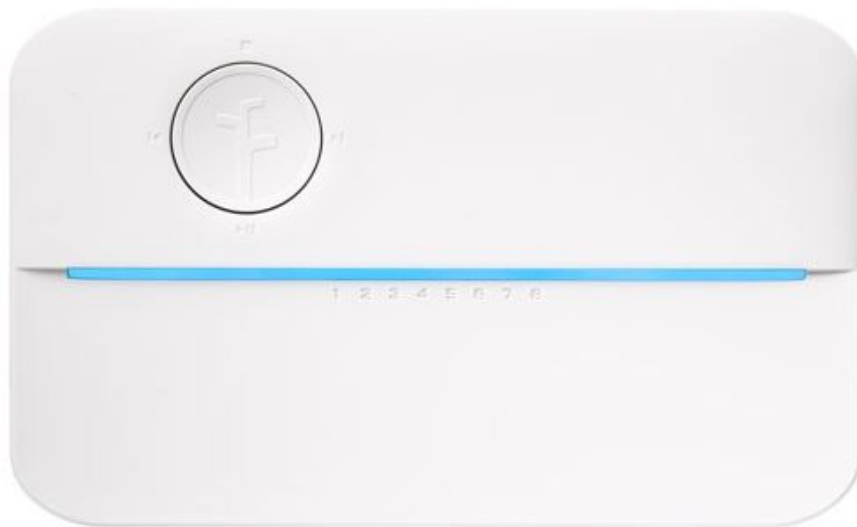
[Home](#) » [rachio](#) » Rachio 8ZULW-C SMART SPRINKLER CONTROLLER USER MANUAL 

## Contents

- 1 Rachio 8ZULW-C SMART SPRINKLER CONTROLLER
- 2 What's in the box
- 3 STEP 1 Out with the old
- 4 STEP 2 Mark screw locations
- 5 STEP 3 In with the new
- 6 STEP 4 Connect your wires
- 7 STEP 5 Create an account
- 8 STEP 6 Connect to Wi-Fi
- 9 STEP 7 Complete setup on the app
- 10 FEATURES
- 11 PRECAUTIONS
- 12 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
- 13 VIDEO – PRODUCT OVERVIEW



**Rachio 8ZULW-C SMART SPRINKLER CONTROLLER**



## What's in the box



Magnetic Faceplate



Smart Sprinkler Controller



3 Screws with Anchors



Power Adapter

## What you'll need



Wi-Fi Access  
(2.4 or 5 GHz)



Smartphone  
or Tablet



Phillips  
Screwdriver



Hammer  
(Drywall Installs)

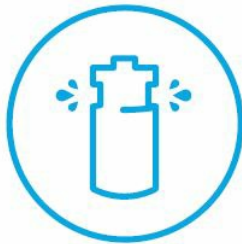


Drill and Drill Bit  
(Drywall Installs)

The Rachio 3 Sprinkler Controller is designed for indoor installation. If the outdoor installation is required, you'll need our weather-resistant enclosure. Learn more at [rachio.com/outdoors](https://rachio.com/outdoors).

## STEP 1 Out with the old

Test your old system to ensure everything works properly. Photograph the wiring inside your existing controller to reference during installation. Remove your old controller from the wall.



Test  
Sprinklers



Photograph  
Wiring



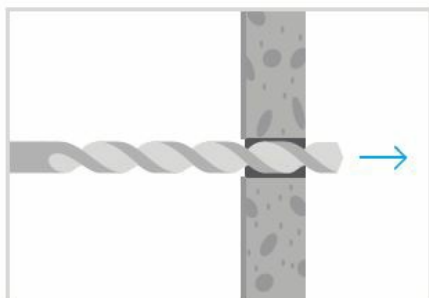
Remove  
Controller

## STEP 2 Mark screw locations

Use the Mounting Template at the end of this guide to mark where you want to install your Rachio 3.

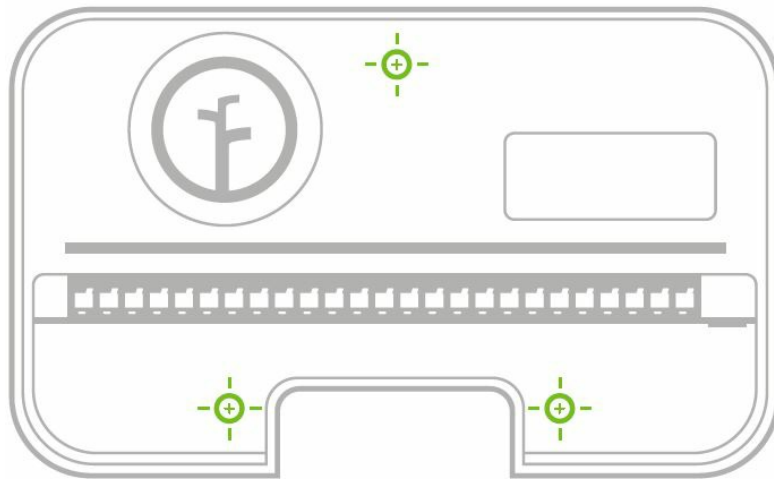
### For Drywall Installation:

Drill holes at marked locations for the anchors. Use a 3/16 inch bit to drill through the drywall, then use a hammer to gently tap each anchor into place.



## STEP 3 In with the new

Remove the Rachio 3's magnetic faceplate. Mount your new controller by screwing it onto the wall using the provided screws.



**Mounting Template**

Ensure the lower holes are level, and use a pencil to mark the center of each hole.

Make sure your wires have enough slack to reach the drill icon above!

#### **STEP 4 Connect your wires**

While referencing the photo of your previous wiring, insert the wires into the appropriate terminals. Are things not matching up? Visit [rachio.com/wiring](https://rachio.com/wiring) for tips on advanced wiring.

- **Common Wires (C)**

Common wires are often labeled “C” or “Com.” You can insert them into any of the white “C” terminals.

- **Zone Wires (1-16)**

Zone wires correspond to your landscape’s zones. Insert them into the blue, numbered terminals.



- **Master Valve (M)**

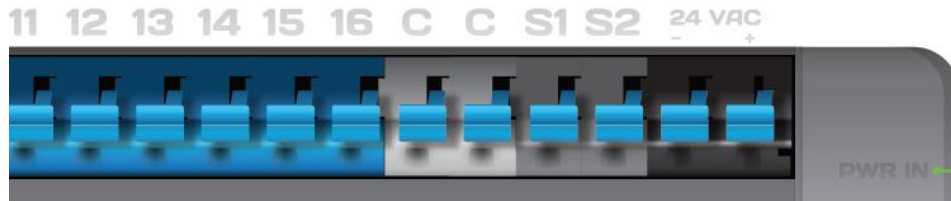
Not all systems have a master valve. Master valve wires are often labeled “M,” “MV,” or “Pump.” If you have a master valve, wire it into the dark gray “M” terminal.

- **Sensor Wires(Optional) S1-2 24 VAC**

You are able to connect up to two rain or flow sensors to your controller using the “S1,” “S2,” and 24VAC sensor power terminals. For more information, visit [rachio.com/sensors](https://rachio.com/sensors).



Insert the power connector upward into the power jack located at the bottom right of the wiring bay. Then, plug the power adapter into the outlet.



## STEP 5 Create an account

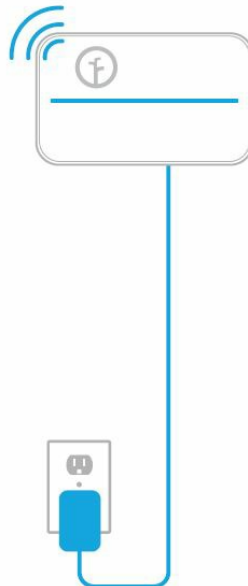
Find the Rachio app on the Apple App Store, on Google Play or by visiting [rachio.com/download](https://rachio.com/download). Once the app is installed, create your account.



## STEP 6 Connect to Wi-Fi

Open the Rachio app and select “Add Controller.” The app will guide you through this process.

Once your controller is online, the light bar will pulse blue. You can now replace the magnetic faceplate.



## STEP 7 Complete setup on the app

Now that the controller is online, use the Rachio app to customize your zones and create a schedule.

**Congrats, you did it!**

Want to learn more about what you can do with your new Rachio 3?



Control your system remotely.



Integrate your smart home.

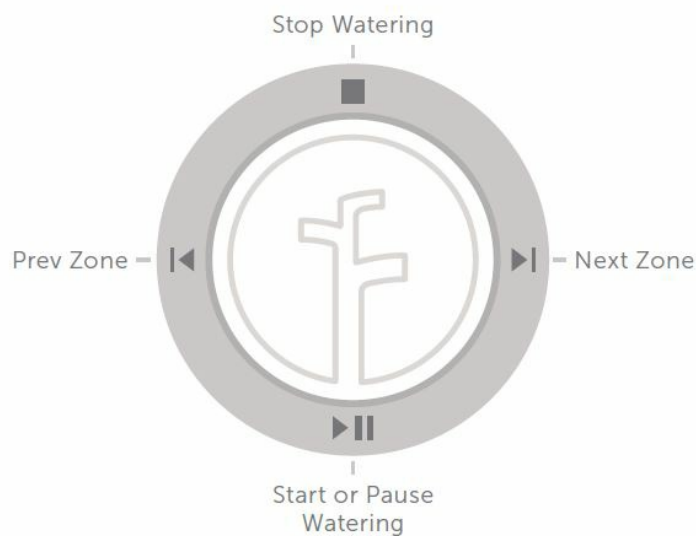


Optimize your waterings.

Visit [rachio.com/more](https://rachio.com/more)

## Manual Controls

Zones can be run directly from the controller if needed. Use the forward and back buttons to select a zone on the light bar, then select play.



## FEATURES

The Rachio 8ZULW-C Smart Sprinkler Controller offers several features to help you efficiently manage and control your sprinkler system.

Here are some key features of the Rachio 8ZULW-C:

### 1. Smart Wi-Fi Connectivity:

The controller connects to your home's Wi-Fi network, allowing you to control and monitor your sprinkler system from anywhere using the Rachio mobile app.

### 2. Weather Intelligence Technology:

The Rachio 8ZULW-C utilizes advanced weather data to automatically adjust your watering schedule based on local weather conditions, such as rainfall, temperature, humidity, and evapotranspiration rates.

### 3. Zone-specific Watering:

You can create customized watering zones for different areas of your yard, taking into account specific plant types, soil conditions, and sun exposure. This ensures that each zone receives the appropriate amount of water.

### 4. Watering Schedules:

The controller enables you to set up personalized watering schedules tailored to your landscape's needs. You can specify watering frequency, duration, and start times for each zone.

**5. Rain Sensor Integration:**

The Rachio 8ZULW-C can integrate with a compatible rain sensor to automatically pause or skip watering cycles when it detects rainfall, helping to prevent overwatering.

**6. Flow Meter Compatibility:**

If you have a compatible flow meter installed, the controller can provide real-time flow monitoring and leak detection, alerting you to any abnormalities in your irrigation system.

**7. Water Savings:**

By utilizing weather data and smart scheduling, the Rachio 8ZULW-C helps you save water by only irrigating when necessary and avoiding unnecessary watering during or after rainfall.

**8. Easy Installation:**

The controller is designed for easy installation and can replace most existing sprinkler controllers without the need for rewiring. It comes with wiring labels and an intuitive interface for simple setup.

**9. Smart Home Integration:**

The Rachio 8ZULW-C is compatible with popular smart home platforms like Amazon Alexa, Google Assistant, and Apple HomeKit, allowing you to control your sprinkler system using voice commands or integrate it into broader smart home automation routines.

**10. Remote Access and Control:**

With the mobile app, you can remotely access and control your sprinkler system from your smartphone or tablet, making it convenient to manage your irrigation settings even when you're away from home.

**11. Detailed Reports and Insights:**

The app provides detailed reports and insights about your watering history, water usage, and estimated savings, helping you track and optimize your irrigation practices.

**12. Freeze and Wind Skip:**

The controller incorporates freeze and wind skip features, which automatically adjust watering schedules to avoid damage or inefficiencies during freezing temperatures or windy conditions.

**13. Manual Control:**

In addition to automated schedules, you have the flexibility to manually start or stop watering zones directly from the app or the controller itself.

**14. Multi-controller Support:**

If you have multiple Rachio controllers, they can be grouped together in the app, allowing you to manage and control all your irrigation zones from a single interface.

**15. Software Updates:**

Rachio regularly releases firmware updates to enhance the controller's functionality and introduce new features, ensuring you benefit from ongoing improvements and advancements in irrigation technology.

These features make the Rachio 8ZULW-C Smart Sprinkler Controller a convenient and intelligent solution for efficient watering and irrigation management.

## **PRECAUTIONS**

**When using the Rachio 8ZULW-C Smart Sprinkler Controller, it's important to keep the following precautions in mind:**

**1. Electrical Safety:**

Ensure that the controller is properly installed and connected to a stable power source following the provided instructions. If you're not familiar with electrical work, it's recommended to seek professional assistance.

**2. Water Supply Safety:**

When making any adjustments or performing maintenance on the sprinkler system, always turn off the main water supply to prevent accidental water discharge or flooding.

**3. System Compatibility:**

Before purchasing the controller, verify that it is compatible with your existing sprinkler system and wiring. Check the controller's specifications and consult with a professional if necessary.

**4. Regular Maintenance:**

Perform routine maintenance on your sprinkler system, such as checking for leaks, cleaning sprinkler heads, and inspecting wiring connections. Regular maintenance helps ensure optimal performance and prevents potential issues.

**5. Follow Local Watering Regulations:**

Familiarize yourself with local watering regulations and restrictions in your area. Some municipalities may have specific guidelines regarding watering schedules and water usage. Adhere to these regulations to avoid penalties and promote responsible water usage.

**6. Wi-Fi Security:**

Protect your Wi-Fi network by using a strong and unique password. Enable encryption and take necessary security measures to prevent unauthorized access to your Rachio 8ZULW-C controller.

**7. Proper Wiring:**

When connecting or adjusting wiring connections, ensure that the power is turned off to prevent electrical shocks. Follow the provided instructions and double-check wiring connections to avoid any issues.

**8. Rain Sensor Installation:**

If integrating a rain sensor with the controller, ensure that it is installed correctly and functioning properly. Test the rain sensor periodically to verify its effectiveness in detecting rainfall.

**9. App and Firmware Updates:**

Keep the Rachio mobile app and the controller's firmware up to date. Regular updates often include bug fixes, security enhancements, and new features that improve the overall functionality and performance of the system.

**10. Regularly Monitor and Adjust:**

Periodically review and adjust your watering schedules and settings based on changes in weather conditions, plant needs, or water restrictions. This will help optimize water usage and ensure effective irrigation.

**11. Follow Manufacturer Instructions:**

Always follow the instructions provided by Rachio for the installation, setup, and operation of the controller. Familiarize yourself with the user manual and any additional documentation to ensure proper usage.

By adhering to these precautions, you can use the Rachio 8ZULW-C Smart Sprinkler Controller safely and effectively while maximizing its benefits for your irrigation system.

**Need some help?**

Check out our Help Center [support.rachio.com](https://support.rachio.com)



Give us a call. 1 (833) 722 4463

Not sure what to do with your old controller? We'll recycle it for free! Visit [rachio.com/recycle](https://rachio.com/recycle).

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Rachio 8ZULW-C Smart Sprinkler Controller? The Rachio 8ZULW-C is a smart irrigation controller that allows you to manage and control your sprinkler system using your smartphone or other smart devices.

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Does the Rachio 8ZULW-C require an internet connection?

Yes, the Rachio 8ZULW-C requires an internet connection to connect to the Rachio app and access its smart features.

Can I control the sprinkler system remotely with the Rachio 8ZULW-C?

Yes, you can control your sprinkler system remotely using the Rachio mobile app, which allows you to adjust watering schedules and settings from anywhere.

Does the Rachio 8ZULW-C have weather-based scheduling?

Yes, the Rachio 8ZULW-C utilizes weather data to create smart watering schedules based on local weather conditions.

Can the Rachio 8ZULW-C adjust watering based on rainfall?

Yes, the Rachio 8ZULW-C can integrate with compatible rain sensors to automatically adjust watering schedules when rainfall is detected.

Can I create custom watering zones with the Rachio 8ZULW-C?

Yes, you can create customized watering zones based on specific areas of your yard with different watering needs.

Does the Rachio 8ZULW-C support multiple schedules?

Yes, the Rachio 8ZULW-C supports multiple watering schedules that can be customized for different zones and days of the week.

Can the Rachio 8ZULW-C track water usage?

Yes, the Rachio 8ZULW-C provides insights into water usage, allowing you to monitor and optimize your water consumption.

Is the Rachio 8ZULW-C compatible with smart home platforms?

Yes, the Rachio 8ZULW-C is compatible with popular smart home platforms such as Amazon Alexa, Google Assistant, and Apple HomeKit.

Does the Rachio 8ZULW-C support integration with other smart devices?

Yes, the Rachio 8ZULW-C can integrate with other smart devices like flow meters and weather stations to enhance its functionality.

Does the Rachio 8ZULW-C support manual control?

Yes, the Rachio 8ZULW-C allows for manual control of your sprinkler system through the app or directly on the controller.

Can the Rachio 8ZULW-C be programmed for specific plant types?

Yes, you can adjust the watering schedules and durations based on the specific water needs of different plant types in your yard.

Is the Rachio 8ZULW-C easy to install?

Yes, the Rachio 8ZULW-C is designed for easy installation and can replace most existing sprinkler controllers without rewiring.

Can I expand the Rachio 8ZULW-C system with additional zones?

Yes, the Rachio 8ZULW-C supports expansion with additional zone controllers if you have more than 8 zones in your sprinkler system.

Is the Rachio 8ZULW-C compatible with both iOS and Android devices?

Yes, the Rachio 8ZULW-C is compatible with both iOS and Android devices, allowing users of both platforms to control their sprinkler system.

## VIDEO – PRODUCT OVERVIEW



[Download the PDF Link: Rachio 8ZULW-C Smart Sprinkler Controller User Manual](#)  
[SPRINKLER-CONTROLLER-USER-MANUAL.mp4](#)