

FAQ GUIDE-ESPME CONTROLLER

How many stations (zones) can I hook up?

A: The controller supports up to 22 stations. Each of the 3 bays can accept either a 6 station module or a 3 station module.

Will this panel work on my old ESP Modular housing?

A: Yes, but it is not recommended. The panel will not increase station count; the controller will still have a max count of 13. It will skip the following stations: 8.9.10 14.15.16 20.21.22. It will also renumber stations 8-13 to the following stations: 8 will be 11, 9 will be 12, 10 will be 13, 11 will be 14, 12 will be 15, and 13 will be 16.

I see a message on the DISPLAY "14NOMOD" what does it mean?

A: It means that you have there is no module installed for the station. For example, Station 14 would be located in the 2nd bay. Bay 1 is for stations 5-10. Bay 2 is for stations 11-16. So, you either have a 3 station module installed in Bay 2 or no module at all.

My Alert light is flashing, what does it mean?

A: It means that you have a programming error. Either there are: no start times, no run times, or no watering days selected. The controller ships from the factory with the following settings:
1 Start time of 8:00 AM, 10 minute run time for the first 4 stations (base module) and all days set to ON.

My Alert light is illuminated and not flashing, what does it mean?

A: It means that you have an electrical error. Pay attention to the DISPLAY screen which will scroll a message across it indicating what error condition exists. The controller will automatically skip the affected station and proceed to the next station. To clear an alert condition, make sure the dial is in the AUTO and press and hold the right arrow key for 3 seconds. (Arrow with teardrop shape)

How do I run a manual program?

A: Turn dial to the Run Manual Program position and press and hold the right arrow key (with teardrop shape) OR

A: With dial in the AUTO RUN position, press and hold the right arrow key (with teardrop shape) for 3 seconds. The program that has the letter shown on the DISPLAY will run.

What is the number displayed on the display when I turn the dial to Manual Program?

A: Total Run Time Calculator. It calculates and displays the total run time for the 1st start time ONLY.

How do I run a specific station?

A: Turn the dial to the Run Manual Station position. Use the arrow keys to choose station. Use – and + keys to adjust the run time. Press and hold the right arrow (with teardrop shape) for 3 seconds.

What settings are reset if I do a factory reset?

A: Start/Run Times, watering days, Rain Sensor status is returned to Bypass, Delay watering status is reset to 0 days, Seasonal Adjust % is reset to 100% of program values

What settings are not reset if I do a factory reset?

A: Date/Time is the only setting not reset to the factory ship settings.

What are the factory default values for run times and start times?

A: Program A only. Start time of 8:00 and Station run times of 10 minutes for stations 1,2,3,4. All days set to “ON” for watering.

Will the LED illuminate when irrigation is interrupted due to rainfall?

A: No. Unlike the ESP Modular, the LED only illuminates during an Alert condition.

Should the Rain sensor icon with an X through it be showing?

A: it should only show if there is no Rain Sensor installed. If a Rain Sensor is installed, turn the dial to the Rain Sensor dial position and press the – or + key to activate the sensor.

What is the maximum output voltage supported if I hook up a Pump Start Relay?

A: Max Coil inrush current is 11VA and Max Coil hold current is 5 VA.

What should I do if I am missing a part?

A: Call us at 1-800-724-6247

Where can I find the documentation on the product?

A: www.rainbird.com/espme

I replaced my old ESPM with the new ESPME, can I reuse my 3 station module?

A: Yes, 3 station modules are compatible with the new ESPME.

What quick connect cable do I use with the controller?

A: 5 PIN quick connect cable. (The ESP Modular used a 6 PIN cable)

Do I need to have a 9V battery installed to backup anything?

A: No. All Date/Time information is backed up internally on a long life lithium battery. The programs and settings are backed upon internal memory. So, no battery is required.

What is Delay Watering? How do I use it?

A: Delay watering allows you to Delay watering of your landscape up to 14 days. If you have some yard work being done at your home or if you have a party in a few days, this is an easy way to ensure no watering takes place. Once the delay period expires, normal irrigation resumes.

What is Advanced Cycles?

A: Advanced Cycles is the dial position for 3 different watering options. Odd-waters on odd days beginning with Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday.. Even-waters on even days beginning with Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday. Cyclic- waters ever X number of days and then you choose what day that watering schedule starts. It is shown as X days remaining until it starts. To permanently turn a day off when using an Advanced Cycle, turn the dial to the target day of the week you want to turn off and press and hold both arrow keys for 3 seconds. Use the – or + key to set status to PERM OFF.

Why is there a Display Legend chart on page 2 of the Rapid Start Manual?

A: The ESPME is a global product, the manual uses illustrations from the North American market's display. This legend allows users in other countries to understand what icon or message they will see on their DISPLAY.

The user sees on the display "-- -- -- --" then the Auto Screen and then the message NO AC and then "-- -- -- --" again.

A: Replace the battery.

Seasonal Adjust:

The base value is 100%. (Note, this is different than the RZX which has a base value of 0). The user can adjust the watering up to 200% or down to 5% of the scheduled run times. The adjusted values are always rounded up to the nearest minute.

Example:

User has 10 stations set to run for 10 minutes each on program A. They have 2 start times set. Start time 1-6:00 AM and Start time 2-9:30 PM. They use the seasonal adjust feature to increase watering by 20% (setting the value to 120%). Turn the dial to "Manual Program" and the Total Run Time Calculator will show the Program A letter on the display and the total run time will show as 120. Note, this is the run time for the first start time only. If the user turns the dial to "Set Station Run Times" the station run times will now show 12 minutes per station. If the user adjusts the run time from 12 to 10, it does not affect the Seasonal Adjust Value; it is still going to show 120. The controller has a memory that remembers the setting. The User should return the dial to Seasonal Adjust and change the value back to 100. This will return the run times to the original value, except for the run times that they manually changed.

Can the ESPME run more than 1 program at a time?

A: No.

Why is my controller skipping station numbers?

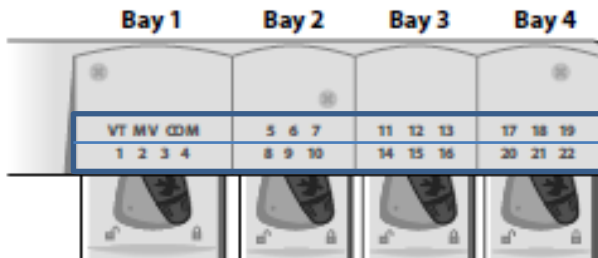
A: The controller is configured with Fixed Station Numbering. Each bay is set up to accept a 6 station module and reserve the station number for future use if a 6 station module is NOT installed in the expansion bays 2, 3 or 4.

Take this example. A total of 19 stations are installed.

The 4-station Base Module is installed in Bay 1 and uses Stations

1 through 4. 3-Station Expansion Modules are installed in Bays 2 and the stations recognized will be: Bay 1 (1,2,3,4) Bay 2 (5,6,7) and Bay 3 (11,12,13). All top row stations; the bottom row is “reserved” for future installation of a 6-station module.

Figure 1: Fixed Station numbers per Bay are shown



During programming, the controller will skip any unused Station numbers creating a gap in station numbering.

NOTE: Station numbering gaps will not prevent the controller from operating properly. It only affects station numbering. During programming when connected to AC power, the controller will skip any unused stations where a module is not installed.