

## Timers

Have you got the time? We've got the timer! There are many different types of timers on the market today, and their uses can be widespread. The following will assist in knowing their applications and basic specifications.

Important specifications to consider before choosing your timer type include voltage, max amperage or power (watts) being controlled, number of timing cycles, timeframe of timer cycle, and installation (hardwired, plug in, indoor or outdoor).



### Electro-Mechanical Timers

Mechanical timers are by far the most common type, and are motor driven with a rotating wheel that when it comes in contact with a metal insert known as a tripper, turns the electrical circuit on or off. Because of the analog nature, time changes for daylight savings needs to be updated manually. They also require the purchase of additional trippers for multiple on/off times. These are most commonly used in commercial lighting, process cycle applications, pool pumps and water heaters.

### Electronic Timers

These are the updated version of the old electro-mechanical timers and offer more complete electrical circuit control. Because of the digital nature, the time can be adjusted automatically for daylight savings, and multiple scheduled days and times can be programmed. These by far are the most flexible style commercial duty timer. Typical applications are the same as the electro-mechanical version.



### Wall Switch Timers

Wall switch timers are compact timers that replace standard wall switches and include manual on/off override. They come in both electronic and electro-mechanical versions. These timers typically are available in several colors to match existing installations.

### Spring Wound Timers

Spring wound timers are mechanical timers that are mounted in a single gang outlet box like a wall switch. The timer knob is turned and the circuit is turned on and then countdown to circuit turnoff begins. Popular applications include bathroom lights and fans. They are available in multiple colors, as well as minutes or hours of timed operation.



### Plug In Timers

Plug in timers plug into the wall and an electrical device plugs into them. They are available in both electronic and electro-mechanical versions. These timers are by far the most flexible for their installation, and can be moved or installed wherever and whenever needed. Typical applications include lights for vacations, holiday lighting, or anywhere else the installer does not need a permanent installation or does not feel comfortable with wiring devices.

### Hose-Sprinkler Timers

In the Southwest United States and other parts of the country, drought and water shortages have caused restrictions on irrigation for plants, lawns and gardens. Hose and sprinkler timers are becoming incredibly popular, and come in both electronic and electro-mechanical versions and have many of the same considerations as above.



### Defrost Timers

Defrost timers control the cooling and heating elements in a refrigerator system. The timer controls the fan and condenser for cooling and then will turn on the heater to defrost the evaporator coil to make sure that there is no frost build up. The defrost timer is an important part of any frost free refrigerator or freezer. These timers generally are specific to the application and not a universal type replacement.



Information sources: Diehl, Intermatic, Paragon, Rainbird, and Tork

If you are still having difficulty choosing a Timer,  
please contact us at [askzoro@zoro.com](mailto:askzoro@zoro.com) or 855-289-9676

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