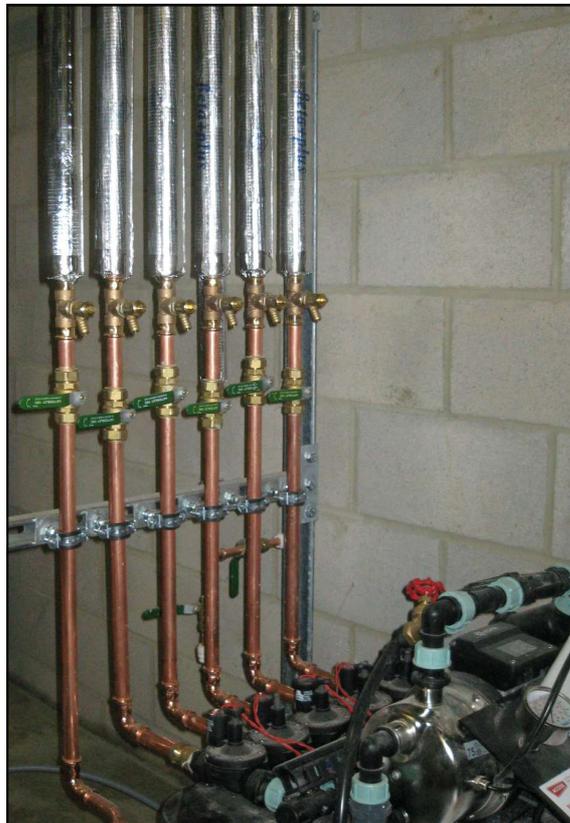




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Control System Watering - Commercial

Description

Control equipment ranges from simple single zone controllers to sophisticated multi zone controllers with mini weather stations to calculate the exact amount of water required.

The simplest controllers are operated purely on the basis of time. Regardless of the weather conditions the controller will irrigate for a pre-determined length of time, leading to watering in the rain. For very small scale projects this is acceptable, but larger schemes need improved weather sensitivity.

Mains powered controllers generally have an input for a rain sensor and the ability to easily increase or decrease the watering duration as the seasons change.

The most sophisticated irrigation controllers incorporate an on-site mini weather station. Using temperature, humidity, solar radiation and optionally wind speed, the unit can then calculate a highly accurate on-site evapo-transpiration (ET) figure. The controller will automatically calculate the optimum watering requirements. Studies show that ET calculations provide a highly realistic model of plant needs, and can provide water savings of up to 30%.