



TORO®

MAXIMIZING YOUR PROFIT POTENTIAL

ROTORS VS. ROTATORS



When it comes to designing and installing irrigation systems, choosing the right sprinkler is key. Your choices not only effect the long-term results for your customer, but they also have an immediate impact on your bottom line. Knowing when to use a rotor or a rotating nozzle (also referred to as a rotator) is an important business decision. Choosing the right sprinkler could mean a savings of up to 40%.

Do you really need a rotator, or will a rotor do the same job?

When deciding between a rotor and a rotating nozzle, it's important to know the basic differences. Rotors are mostly gear-driven, enabling a strong consistent rotation, aiding efficiency. Most rotors deliver a single stream with larger droplets providing good distance to cover larger areas.



Rotating nozzles deliver multiple streams of water with different distances in each stream. Rotating nozzles have a reputation for applying the water at a rate that makes it easier for the ground to absorb the moisture, and as a result, are often recommended for slopes. It's important to note that rotors also apply water slowly, making them a great choice for tight soils and slopes.

If your go-to configuration is a rotating nozzle on a 4-inch or 6-inch spray body, chances are you're paying a lot more than you would for a rotor with a pre-installed nozzle. Comparing sprinklers, if flow rate and radius are identical and the sprinkler spacing is the same, then the precipitation rates are the same. That means there is no difference in performance - you can get the same results for less cost by choosing a rotor.

"What it comes down to is that you're paying for technology that you don't really need," said Chris Keating, district sales manager at The Toro Company. "The soil doesn't understand the technology. If the precipitation rate calculation is the same for both a rotor and a rotator shooting the same distance and the nozzles have the same gallons per minute value, the only difference is cost. Why would you pay for more for the same result?"

In many cases rotors are the most cost-effective choice, and they can be less hassle for installers. Rotors are less expensive and are equipped with a nozzle. Rotating nozzles are more expensive and require the additional purchase of a separate sprinkler body. If a pressure regulated sprinkler body is required, that adds even more cost. Installers also need to carry more inventory with rotating nozzles and spray bodies, stocking two parts instead of one, for each application.

"A rotor is a single solution that is less expensive," Keating said. "In the right application, choosing a rotor can save contractors up to 40%."

Lowering costs and increasing efficiency without sacrificing results can be a business game changer. Choosing the right equipment for the right situation can make all the difference. Looking for more information on rotors visit toro.com/irrigation.