



# Tried & tested *Water timers*

GN consumer expert **Geoff Hodge** looks at timers to make watering easier

**W**OULDNT it be great if you had a friend to do your garden watering for you when you were away from home or even in the early hours of the morning - a good time to water most plants.

Well, you can have a friend that will do all this for you - and you don't even have to bribe them! A water timer will do all this and more, and turns a hosepipe or drip irrigation into an automatic watering system.

Most are simple to set up, even those referred to as watering 'computers'. Some are fairly basic

and have limited versatility of watering frequency and duration, whereas others can be programmed to water several times a day or at other set day/time intervals.

### The test

I set up the timers on my outdoor tap with a small drip irrigation system to water five pots. All worked satisfactorily and turned the water on and off as set, so they're all worth buying.

All of the timers were easy to fit to the tap using the screw-on connector, and some come with

adaptors to allow you to connect them to different tap sizes. Some come with a mesh filter to prevent debris getting into the water. And all of them, except the Access model, come with a 20mm (¾in) snap-on hose connector.

All the timers tested are battery operated, but none are supplied with them, and according to most manufacturers the batteries will last a season or a year. Some have a low battery warning indicator, which is very useful.

They all have manual on/off override, so you can use the tap whenever you need to.

## Draper Digital Electronic Water Timer £29.99

This needs simple 'programming' for current time and day, and time and length of the watering cycle using the keypad. It has a comprehensive LCD display. A test button allows you to see all the settings you have set.

**Frequency** Up to six programmes can be set, varying from six times a day every day, just one day a week to only every two or three days.

**Duration** From 1-360 minutes  
**Comes with** 20mm (¾in) and 25mm (1in) tap connectors. Low battery warning indicator and filter in 20mm (¾in) connector. The manual on/off override can be set to run for up to 3 hours.

**Quality** ★★★★★  
**Usability** ★★★★★  
**Versatility** ★★★★★  
**Value** ★★★★★



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**BEST BUY**

PHOTOS: JACQUES PORTAL

**WIN A WATER TIMER** We have five Draper Best Buy Digital Electronic Water Timers to give away! Send your name and address to Garden News Water Timer Giveaway, PO Box 57, Coates, Peterborough PE7 2FE or enter online at [www.greatcompetitions.co.uk](http://www.greatcompetitions.co.uk) Closing date is July 17. Please write 'do not contact' if you don't want to be contacted by us or by carefully selected partner organisations.

## Galcon 9001 E-Z £52

Due to the positioning of the tap connector, this timer needs a clearance of 4cm (1½in) from the wall and the tap. My tap is only 2.5cm (1in) from the wall, so I had to use a piece of hosepipe to connect it.

Simple to set up using two dials for setting frequency and duration. The actual setting is displayed by the marker on the dials. Supplied by Access Garden Products as the Easy Set Dial Tap Timer  
**Frequency** Every 3, 6, 12, 24 hours, 2, 3, 4, 7, 14 days  
**Duration** 2-540 minutes (10 settings)  
**Comes with** 20mm (¾in) tap connector with filter. No low battery warning.



**Quality** ★★★★★  
**Usability** ★★★★★  
**Versatility** ★★★★★  
**Value** ★★★★★

## Darlac Electronic Water Timer £25

This timer is simple to set up using two dials for setting frequency and duration. The settings are displayed by the marker on the dials. The actual watering start time is determined when you first set up the timer, but you can delay the water start time up to a maximum of 12 hours using the timer delay button.

**Frequency** Every 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 24 hours, 2, 3, 7 days  
**Duration** 1-120 minutes (10 pre-set settings)  
**Comes with** 20mm (¾in) tap connector. Low battery warning indicator. No filter.

**Quality** ★★★★★  
**Usability** ★★★★★  
**Versatility** ★★★★★  
**Value** ★★★★★



## Hozelock Flexible Water Timer Plus: 2700 £39.99

This time is really easy to set up using a dial and button to select current time, watering start time, frequency and duration. Each step in the set up is confirmed by an audible beep.

**Frequency** Every 6, 8, 12, 24 hours, 2, 3, 7 days  
**Duration** 1-180 minutes (17 pre-set settings)  
**Comes with** 13mm (½in), 20mm (¾in) and 25mm (1in) tap connector. There is no visible display of the settings, low battery warning or filter.

**Quality** ★★★★★  
**Usability** ★★★★★  
**Versatility** ★★★★★  
**Value** ★★★★★



## Claber Tempo Logic £54.99

Well designed and constructed. It is simple to set up and use with just three push buttons. The operating unit has a LED

display that clearly shows the set watering time and when it is due to start. It can be removed for easier programming away from the tap.

**Frequency and duration** There are 19 pre-set watering frequencies, from 2 minutes every 8 hours to 90 minutes every 7 days.  
**Comes with** 20mm (¾in) tap connector and filter. Low battery warning indicator. The manual on/off override runs for 5 minutes.

**Quality** ★★★★★  
**Usability** ★★★★★  
**Versatility** ★★★★★  
**Value** ★★★★★



## Gardena Water Computer C1030 Plus £69.99

This needs simple 'programming' for current time and day, and time and length of the watering cycle, using the large dial and push buttons. The operating unit has a large LCD display, which clearly shows the set watering times and can be removed for easier programming away from the tap.

**Frequency** Every 8, 12, 24 hours, every day, on selected days or every second, third or seventh day.  
**Duration** From 1 minute to 8 hours  
**Comes with** 13mm (½in), 16mm (5/8in), 20mm (¾in) and 25mm (1in) tap connectors.



Battery charge indicator and filter. The manual on/off override can be set to run for up to 59 minutes.  
**Quality** ★★★★★  
**Usability** ★★★★★  
**Versatility** ★★★★★  
**Value** ★★★★★

## Garden Magic Watering Electronic Timer £38.95

Needs simple 'programming' for current time and day, and time and length of the watering cycle, using a series of push buttons. LCD display shows the settings.

**Frequency** Up to eight programmes can be set from 15 different days-in-the-week settings, varying from just one day a week to every day of the week or even just every other day or just weekends.  
**Duration** From 1 minute to 1 day

**Comes with** 20mm (¾in) and 2.5cm (1in) tap connector. Low battery warning indicator and filter on 20mm (¾in) tap connector.  
**Quality** ★★★★★  
**Usability** ★★★★★  
**Versatility** ★★★★★  
**Value** ★★★★★



## Suppliers

Access Garden Products 01788 822301, [www.garden-products.co.uk](http://www.garden-products.co.uk); Claber, 08456 026696, [www.claber.co.uk](http://www.claber.co.uk); Darlac, 01753 547790, [www.darlac.com](http://www.darlac.com); Draper Tools, 02380 494333 for stockist details, [www.draper.co.uk](http://www.draper.co.uk); Gardena from Husqvarna UK, 08448 444558, [www.gardena.com](http://www.gardena.com); Harrod Horticultural, 08454 025300, [www.harrodhorticultural.com](http://www.harrodhorticultural.com); Hozelock, 0121 313 1122, [www.hozelock.com](http://www.hozelock.com)

**NEXT TIME**  
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