What is a backflow prevention assembly?

Backflow prevention assemblies are mechanical devices installed on water service lines to prevent the backflow of contaminated (unsafe to drink) water from entering the drinking water supply. Backflow assemblies must be state approved, properly installed, and maintained. Backflow prevention assemblies are required to be tested annually by a certified backflow assembly tester.

How can I help protect my drinking water?

- Be aware of the possible hazards of cross connections and avoid them whenever possible.
- Protect all cross connections with appropriate backflow assemblies.
- Prior to installation of the appropriate backflow prevention assembly, contact Permit Services to obtain a plumbing permit.
- Have all backflow assemblies tested annually by a certified tester.
- Submit backflow assembly test reports to your water provider.

Be aware of thermal expansion

You may need to protect your water heater from thermal expansion when you install a backflow prevention assembly at the water meter.

- Protection may be provided by the installation of a thermal expansion tank and a temperature relief valve (commonly referred to as a “T & P Valve").
- Contact a licensed plumber for assistance.

Did you know?

- Backflow assemblies (with the exception of hose bib vacuum breakers) are required to be tested annually by a certified backflow assembly tester.
- A list of certified backflow assembly testers is available on the Oregon Health Authority website at www.public.health.oregon.gov.
- A copy of all backflow assembly test reports are to be submitted to your water provider upon completion.

Maintaining a cross connection control program is critical to protecting the safety and high quality of the potable water system. Cross connections exist and can result in serious contamination events.

Learn more about your water at:

https://www.ci.sandy.or.us/search/site/public%20works

City of SANDY

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How You Can Help Keep Your Water Safe With Backflow Prevention

Clean Water Is Essential To The Health And Well-being Of Our Community

What is backflow?

Backflow is water flowing in the opposite of its intended direction. Backflow is especially concerning when potable (drinking) water is connected directly to non-potable (non-drinking) water. This potentially dangerous yet common connection is called a ***Cross Connection.***

As a Sandy water customer, you expect your drinking water to be safe. We are committed to providing you the safest, highest quality water. Cross connection control programs help protect the water we drink from contamination.

Customers are responsible for preventing contaminants from entering the public water system through their individual plumbing systems. Eliminate Cross Connection risks by installing, maintaining, and testing approved backflow assemblies.

Possible cross connection risks

- Submerged hoses
- Lawn sprinkler systems
- Fire protection systems
- Swimming pools and hot tubs
- Water features and fountains
- Boilers
- Solar water heating systems
- Cooling towers
- Wells and auxiliary water supplies

Protection of our drinking water requires the efforts of everyone

Backflow prevention assemblies

Hose Bib Vacuum Breaker

Common applications include: Hoses, swimming pools, wash tubs and utility sinks

- Easy to install
- No test requirements
- Limited backflow protection

Double Check Valve Assembly (DCVA)

The most common residential assembly. Common applications include: Lawn irrigation and fire sprinkler systems

- May be installed below ground
- Requires annual test
- Protects against many but not all hazardous conditions

Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker (AVB)

These devices are not allowed in Sandy because they cannot be tested to confirm they are working properly.

Pressure Vacuum Breaker (PVB)

Common applications include: Lawn irrigation systems

- Must be installed a minimum of 12” above the highest downstream piping
- More susceptible to freezing than the DCVA
- Requires annual test
- Must protect from freezing

Reduced Pressure Backflow Assembly (RP)

Common applications include: Swimming pool pump systems, chemical injection systems

- Must be installed above ground
- Requires annual test
- Highest protection
- Must protect from freezing