

BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLY

Most Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. What is a Backflow Prevention Assembly?

A. A Backflow Prevention Assembly is a plumbing device that is most commonly installed between the water meter and the service main to the property.

Q. Why are they installed?

A. They are installed to protect the public & private drinking water supplies from cross-connections. These are plumbing requirements at the Federal, State and Local jurisdictions.

Q. What does a backflow preventer do?

A. A properly functioning backflow preventer only allows water to flow in one direction. **For example: The direction of flow would be through the water meter to the property. Never allowing the water to reverse back through the water meter, into public drinking water supply.**

Q. Where is the backflow preventer located?

A. The preventer is normally located as close as practical to the service connection from your water supply. Commonly found behind the water meter.

Q. Why does a backflow preventer have to be tested?

A. The backflow preventer is a mechanical device with internal components such as check valves, seals, springs and rubber materials. These parts are subject to wear, fatigue and fouling. This is why backflow preventers are tested annually to ensure that they are functioning properly.

Q. How often do the backflow preventers need to be tested?

A. Title 17 of the California Health & Safety Code states that backflow preventers must be tested annually.

Q. What happens if the backflow preventer fails the initial test?

A. Repairs are necessary to pass the backflow preventer. In most cases, simply a cleaning and service corrects the problem. Repair parts are available if needed. Retest is performed to ensure the repairs have corrected the problem, and pass the backflow preventer.

Q. What is a cross-connection?

A. A cross-connection is a direct or indirect arrangement of piping that allows the potable water supply to be connected to a contaminated source. **For example: water service supplying water to a building that also serves the irrigation system. Most common cross-connection is a garden hose submerged, or attached to contaminated fluids and undesirable substances.**