

Backflow Prevention Devices

A backflow prevention device is a valve used to protect drinking water supplies from contamination or pollution due to back-siphonage.

Back-siphonage can occur when there is a pressure drop in the drinking water supply system that allows contaminants to be drawn in from other indirect connections.

What types of installations require a testable backflow prevention device?

Testable backflow prevention devices are required on installations that pose a risk to the drinking water supply including but not limited to:

- fire hose reels or fire hydrants
- commercial or industrial equipment or activities that could pollute the drinking water supply (air conditioning cooling tower, chemical cleaning stations etc)
- water outlets in proximity to pollutants, grease traps or chemicals
- an alternate water supply.

Property owner's responsibilities

It is a requirement under Queensland legislation that owners of testable backflow prevention device/s must register their device/s with their Local Government and have the device/s inspected and tested annually by a person who is licensed to do the work.

An annual registration fee is required to be paid at the time the device is tested. A registration invoice will be issued when the device is due for testing.

If a backflow prevention device isn't tested it increases the risk of harmful pollutants entering the drinking water supply.

Penalties apply to property owners who do not have their devices tested or do not pay the annual registration fee to maintain their device/s currency on the backflow register.

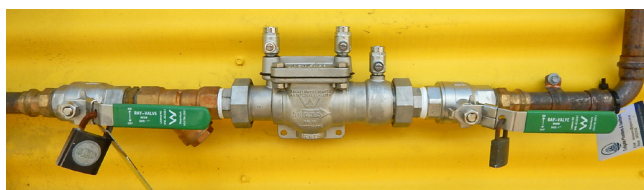
It is an offence to remove or replace a backflow prevention device unless licensed and authorised to do so.

The relevant Local Government must be notified of new, replaced or removed devices.

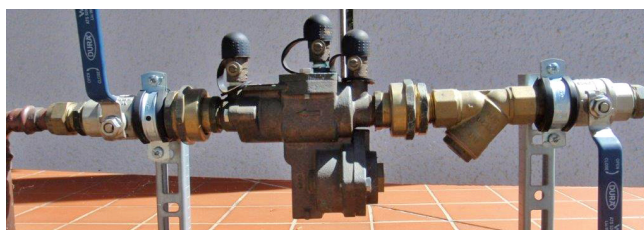
Licensed persons responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the licensed person to forward the test results (Form 9) to the Local Government within 10 business days of testing the device/s.

Ipswich City Council does not require failed valve test results. Failed devices must be immediately repaired or replaced and if unable to do so, the appliance or outlet they serve should be isolated to prevent any potential contamination until repair or replacement.



Medium hazard device (Double Check Valve - DCV)



High hazard device (Reduced Pressure Zone Device - RPZD)

Further information

For further information, contact Council's Plumbing Services team on (07) 3810 6130 or email plandev@ipswich.qld.gov.au

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