



Backflow Prevention Devices

What is backflow prevention?

Backflow prevention is the term used to refer to the prevention of an unwanted reverse flow of water from a potentially polluted source into the drinking water supply.

When does backflow occur?

Backflow occurs when a condition exists in a water supply system that will cause back-siphonage or back-pressure. Back-siphonage can occur on a property through a vacuum created in the water supply system.

An example of back-siphonage would be a pipeline breakage, undersized pipework or high withdrawal rates. Back-pressure can occur within properties when high pressure is generated downstream by pumps, thermal expansion or elevation.

Potential sources of contamination are but not limited to:

- Air conditioning Towers
- Irrigation Areas
- Fire Hose Reels
- Swimming Pools and Spas
- Vehicle Maintenance Pits
- Dishwasher / Glass Washer
- Vehicle Washing Bays
- Sullage Pits / Process Tanks
- Chemical injection Areas
- Boilers / Steam Pipes
- Dockside Facilities / Jetties
- Bidets / Bain-Maries
- Ornamental Ponds

How do you prevent a backflow occurrence?

A correctly selected backflow prevention device will eliminate any risk of contamination of the drinking water supply. Backflow prevention devices are either testable or non-testable types with the selection dependent on the risk associated with the possible contamination.

Registration of testable backflow devices

Council is required under legislation to maintain a program for the registration, maintenance and testing of testable backflow prevention devices.

Owners of an installed testable backflow prevention device must register the device with Council. For new work approved by Council, registration will occur as part of this approval process. For testable backflow prevention devices added to an existing building, registration will occur once the licensed installer or owner notifies Council.

Annual testing of backflow prevention devices

Owners of an installed testable backflow prevention device must have the device inspected or tested annually, by a person who is licensed to do the work.

The licensed person who inspects or tests a testable backflow prevention device must give Council written results of the inspection or test within 10 business days. A lodgement fee is payable to Council at this time. When an annual test certificate has not been received, Council will issue a reminder notice to the owner.

Penalties may apply if the annual test certificate is not received at this point in time.

Related Websites

Plumbing Code of Australia
www.hpw.qld.gov.au

Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018
www.legislation.qld.gov.au

Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019
www.legislation.qld.gov.au

