



CITY OF BATAVIA

JEFFERY D. SCHIELKE
Mayor

Backflow F.A.Q.

What does a backflow prevention device do?

Backflow prevention devices prevent the flow of non potable (and possibly dangerous) water from your lawn irrigation system or fire sprinkler system into your house and then into the public water supply.

Does it really need to be tested every year?

Yes, to keep your family and the community safe these devices need to be checked regularly to be certain they are in working condition.

"I.E.P.A. Title 35 Section 653.802 part e subpart 1. - Each device shall be tested at least annually or more frequently if recommend by the manufacturer."

"City of Batavia Code: 8-2-17, D.6. –

It is the responsibility and financial obligation of the water consumer to prevent backflow into the public water supply system by ensuring that:

- All cross-connections are removed; or approved cross-connection control devices are installed for control of backflow and back-siphonage.
- Cross-connection control devices shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Cross-connection control devices shall be inspected at least annually by a person approved by the Agency as a cross-connection control device inspector (CCCDI). The inspection of mechanical devices shall include physical testing in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and such additional requirements, if any, of the City.

In particular:

- a. Fixed air gap separation devices shall be inspected at the time of installation and at least annually thereafter. Corrections to improperly by-passed air gaps shall be made within twenty four (24) hours.
- b. Dual check valve assemblies shall be inspected and tested at time of installation and at least annually thereafter, and required service performed within fifteen (15) days after any such inspection or testing.
- c. Reduced pressure principle backflow prevention devices shall be tested at least annually or more frequently if recommended by the manufacturer, and required service performed within five (5) days.
- d. Testing and Records:
 - (1) Each device shall be tested at least annually by a certified CCCDI, or more frequently if recommended by the manufacturer or City Engineer.
 - (2) Original records submitted to the City Engineer shall be available for inspection by Agency personnel in accordance with 415 Illinois Compiled Statutes 5/4(e). These original records will be maintained by the City.
 - (3) Each device shall have a tag attached listing the date of most recent test, name of CCCDI, and type and date of repairs.



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Are there different kinds of backflow devices other than the RPZ type?

Yes, but only RPZ or Reduced Pressure Zone type devices are acceptable for lawn irrigation systems. If you have any other type device it cannot pass the inspection

“Illinois Plumbing Code Section 890.1140 subsection d. Lawn Sprinklers. Any lawn sprinkler system connected to a potable water supply shall be equipped with a reduced pressure principle backflow preventer assembly (RPZ). The RPZ may be located outside provided it is protected from freezing or is removed at the end of the season, and it conforms with Section 890.1130(g)(1).”

My lawn irrigation system is old, and it passed its original inspection, Am I grandfathered in with my non-RPZ backflow device?

No, due to the fact that these devices are connected to the public water supply and the health and safety of your family and your neighbors can be impacted by non compliant backflow devices, State Code does not allow a device to be grandfathered.

“Illinois Plumbing Code Section 890.110 subsection b part 2.. Regardless of the age of the building, where a health or safety hazard exists because of an existing plumbing installation or lack thereof, the owner or his agent shall install additional plumbing or make such corrections as may be necessary to abate the hazard or violation of this Part.”

I don't use my system anymore. Can I just shut it off?

If you decide you no longer want, or need, the irrigation system, you will be required to permanently disconnect the system from the public water supply. Without permanent disconnection, there are no guarantees the system will not be activated at some later date and the City would have no knowledge of the reactivation. A plumbing permit is required for inspection of the permanently disconnected system. The application is available here:

<http://www.cityofbatavia.net/DocumentCenter/View/701>

Please call the City of Batavia Community Development Department at 630-454-2700 for more information related to the permanent disconnection of the sprinkler system.

Where can I find a Cross Control Device Inspector?

http://www.trackmybackflow.com/sites/default/files/Testing_Companies.pdf

Homeowners are advised to perform their own due diligence when hiring contractors to perform the inspections. It is recommended to secure at least three (3) prices for any service and to check contractor references.

Resources

For more information on backflow prevention devices, the following web resources contain excellent information:

- [USC Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research](#)
- [American Backflow Prevention Association](#)
- [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)
- [Environmental Regulations for the State of Illinois](#)