

Backflow Prevention Devices

What is a Backflow Prevention Device?

Backflow prevention refers to the prevention of a reverse flow of water from a possible polluted source into a water supply system including a main water supply system.

Backflow is caused by cross connection. This is any point on a water system where a polluting substance may come in contact with drinking water. This may include any system piping that allows access to the drinking water supply, any connected auxiliary water supply, submerged inlets, by-pass arrangements, removable sections and temporary devices.

A correctly selected backflow prevention device will significantly reduce the risk of contamination of a water supply. Backflow devices are either testable or non-testable types with the selection dependent on the risk associated with the possible contamination. Testable devices require annual testing to ensure satisfactory operation.

If the backflow device needs replacing, a suitably qualified plumber with endorsement must be employed who will then notify Council (Form 9) that the device has either been replaced or removed.

Responsibilities of the Owner

The owner of an installed testable backflow prevention device must -

- Register the device with Council; and
- At least once a year have the device inspected and tested by a person who is licensed to do the work.

Registration and Testing of Backflow Prevention Devices

In Queensland, testable backflow prevention devices must be tested annually. The owner of a property in which a testable backflow prevention device is installed is required to have this test carried out by a licensed plumber (with backflow endorsement) every twelve months.

Local Governments are obligated to keep a register of the testable devices within their region and as such each valve must be licensed and all test reports provided to Council within 10 business days of the test being carried out. A yearly renewable fee is payable for each backflow device around September each year.

To register a new backflow prevention device a licensed plumber (with endorsement) must fill out a Form 9 and either post to the Plumbing Department, PO Box 25, Beaudesert Qld 4285 or email to mail@scenicrim.qld.gov.au along with the applicable registration fee. Contact Council on 07 5540 5111 if you require any further information.