

Backflow Prevention

What is Backflow Prevention?

All water supply systems intended for human consumption, food preparation, utensil washing or oral hygiene must be safeguarded from contact with contaminated water. This applies to water services connected to rainwater tanks, Council's main water supply and/or alternative water supplies. A water supply should not be offensive in appearance, taste or odour.

Backflow Prevention is the term used to prevent the reverse flow of water from a potentially polluted or contaminated source into drinking and bathing water supply systems. By installing a backflow prevention device this risk can be managed. There are a number of backflow prevention devices available to suit any particular situation.

Where do we start?

Backflow prevention starts within a property boundary by isolating a possible contamination source from the town mains or storage tanks (rainwater tanks) from the tap or appliance.

Examples of Potential Source of Contamination:

Fire Hose Reels (FHR), irrigation, swimming pools, vehicle maintenance pits, ornamental ponds, air conditioning towers, vehicle/bin washing bays, chemical injection areas and many more.

Examples of Properties requiring Backflow Prevention:

Motels and unit complexes, hotels, vehicle repair workshops, shops, restaurants, caravan parks, medical and dental surgeries, car and plant washing facilities, dry cleaners and laundries, hospitals and funeral parlours, club houses for sports, schools, day care centres and kindergartens, pest control and water carrying vehicles, botanic gardens and so on.

Why do we keep a Register?

Council is required to keep a register as per the following:

***Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003 Section 38 –
Testable backflow prevention devices***

[State Government Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003.](#)

- 1) A local government must implement and maintain a program for its local government area for the registration, maintenance and testing of testable backflow prevention devices installed in the area.
- 2) The local government, or an entity authorised by the local government, must keep a register of the testable backflow prevention devices.
- 3) An owner of an installed testable backflow prevention device must-
 - a) Register the device with the local government or entity; and
 - b) At least once each year, have the device inspected or tested by a person who is licensed to do the work.
- 4) A person who inspects or tests a testable backflow prevention device must, within 10 business days after inspecting or testing the device, give the local government written results of the inspection or test.

Renewal Notices:

These notices are sent out on the anniversary month of when the backflow device was originally installed. If a new device is installed at a property that already has existing devices, the original month is used to align due test dates of all devices at the one property.

Where do I locate a licensed plumber?

You can locate a licensed plumber in the Yellow Pages under "Plumbers". Ensure the licensed plumber has the appropriate endorsement to undertake such work.

Why do we charge an annual fee?

This is an administration fee to cover the costs to maintain an up-to-date register.

Further enquiries

If you require further information about backflow prevention devices please contact [council](#).