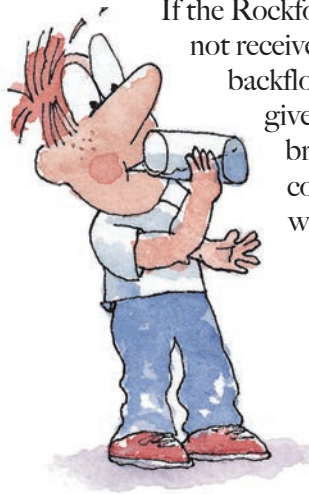


These devices have internal seals, springs and moving parts that are subject to wear and fatigue. All backflow preventers must be tested annually to ensure that they are functioning properly. This is best done when your irrigation system is started up in the spring.



What is the property owner's responsibility?

It is the property owner's responsibility to schedule an annual inspection of the backflow device(s) at their residence. This is done by contacting a plumber with a Cross Connection Control Device Inspector (CCCDI) license. Local plumbing companies or irrigation maintenance companies may have state certified CCCDI inspectors on staff. A copy of the inspection should be kept for your records.



If the Rockford Water Division does not receive an annual inspection for a backflow device, the customer is given approximately 45 days to bring their device(s) into compliance or water service will be discontinued.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the City of Rockford Water Division – Water Quality Section
1111 Cedar St
Rockford, IL 61102
(779) 348-7151

For more information, visit our website at www.rockfordil.gov



Lawn Irrigation Systems

Cross Connections



What is a cross connection?

A cross connection is any connection between a water system and a source (potential or actual) of contamination. Examples of residential cross connections include lawn irrigation systems, fire systems, boilers, and swimming pools/hot tubs that are hardpiped for filling purposes.



Backflow prevention for irrigation systems

Irrigation systems save time and make watering lawns and gardens easier. However, they also are a potential pathway for water that has come in contact with weed killers or fertilizers to be back siphoned into your potable water. Thus, irrigation systems not protected by an approved backflow prevention assembly could endanger the health of a household, neighborhood, or community.

How can backflow occur?

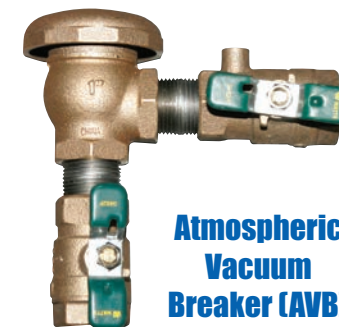


Backflow is the reversal of normal flow in a system due to back siphonage or back pressure. Some typical situations that cause back siphonage action include:

- Watermain breaks or repairs occurring in the system at a point of lower elevation than your service point;
- High water flow rates exerted on a watermain due to fire fighting, hydrant flushing, large system demands or major piping breaks;

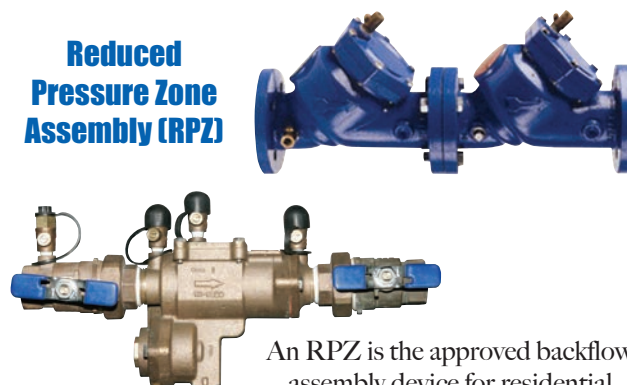
Legal Requirements

Residences with irrigation systems are required by City ordinance to have a backflow prevention assembly (City Ordinance #1993-274-0, Chapter 31 Article IX, Sec. 31-120 to 31-133, in accordance with IEPA Title 35 and Illinois Plumbing Code Title 77 Part 890, Section 890.1130.) Only state approved backflow prevention assemblies installed by a licensed plumber meet the legal requirements and provide reliable protection.



Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker (AVB)

Older irrigation systems installed prior to 1990 typically used AVBs for backflow protection. These devices are no longer approved for backflow protection, and must be removed and replaced by an RPZ per Illinois Plumbing Code, and Rockford City Ordinance. The Ordinance currently requires the replacement of an AVB with an RPZ when a property changes ownership. Also, once an AVB starts to leak, it cannot be repaired and must be replaced by an RPZ.



Reduced Pressure Zone Assembly (RPZ)

An RPZ is the approved backflow assembly device for residential irrigation systems