

# WATER SHOULD FLOW ONLY



## PREVENTING BACKFLOW AT HOME

**Do you have any of the following items on your property?**

- Fire Sprinkler System
- Irrigation System
- Swimming Pool

**If you answered yes to any of these, you may be required to have a backflow device on your property.**

<b>What is Backflow?</b>	<p>To ensure that clean, safe drinking water reaches your faucet, hose, shower, and appliances, water should flow in only one direction from the public water supply to your home. Backflow is the flow of water in the opposite direction from the one in which it is intended to flow. If the water pressure in the main supply line drops below the pressure in the household plumbing system, water can flow back into the household water supply or the main supply line and potentially contaminate your home or the public water supply. Contaminated water can pose serious health risks. Thankfully, backflow-prevention devices, properly installed and maintained, protect our water system. Water agencies typically conduct cross-connection surveys or inspections to determine the level of backflow protection necessary at different properties. It is important to spend the time to understand what type of backflow protection your property needs.</p>
<b>Do I need a backflow device?</b>	<p>A backflow prevention device is installed where backflow is a threat such as large irrigation systems, pools, or water softeners. VVCSD's Cross Connection Control Program is guided by State and Federal Law requiring the installation, maintenance, and annual testing of approved water backflow prevention assemblies at the water meter on premises where potentially hazardous conditions may be present to ensure that backflow cannot occur. For example, an automatic landscape irrigation system creates a condition that requires a backflow protection device to ensure that water from the lawn cannot backflow into the public water supply through the sprinkler heads. Our backflow prevention staff is required to inspect every property connected to the water system and evaluate potential cross-connection hazards. If a hazard is detected on your property, you will receive notice from VVCSD detailing your next steps.</p>



Reduced Pressure Backflow Prevention Assembly (RP)



Double check valve assembly (DC)



Pressure Vacuum Breaker Assembly (PVB)



Spill-Resistant Pressure Vacuum Breaker Assembly (SVB)

<p><b>What are the types of Backflow Devices?</b></p>	<p>Several types of backflow-prevention devices exist. Which device to install will depend on the specific characteristics of the household plumbing system and the potential risks of backflow. The type of device may be prescribed by regulation, and it is important to ensure that you are installing the correct backflow preventer for your situation. Homeowners should consult with a licensed plumber or engineer to identify the most suitable device for their needs:</p>
<p><b>Why did I get a letter saying I need to test my backflow device?</b></p>	<p>State and Federal Law require the annual testing of every backflow device within Vandenberg Village Community Services District. The property owner is responsible for the installation, annual testing, and maintenance of the backflow prevention assemblies required on their system.</p>
<p><b>Who can test my backflow device?</b></p>	<p>Testing of the device must be performed by a person possessing a valid certificate of competence issued by the American Water Works Association, San Luis Obispo, or Ventura County Health Departments. A list of certified testers registered with VVCSD can be found at <a href="https://www.vvcسد.org/backflow-prevention">https://www.vvcسد.org/backflow-prevention</a>.</p>

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