
Frequently Asked Questions Backflow Prevention Devices

Why did I get a letter saying I need to test my backflow device?

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.

Why do I need a backflow device?

A backflow prevention device is installed where backflow is a threat such as large irrigation systems, pools, or water softeners. VVCS D'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. 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.

Can I remove my backflow device?

If you have removed the hazard (e.g., removed your irrigation system), you might be able to remove your backflow device. Contact VVCS D to schedule a backflow hazard survey.

What is backflow?

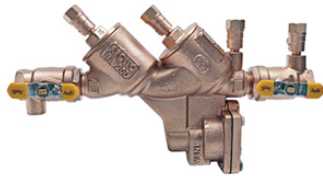
Backflow is caused by a vacuum in a public water system or a customer's potable water system. The effect is similar to drinking water through a straw. The vacuum can occur when there is a drop in water pressure due to a break in a water main, etc.

Who can test my backflow device?

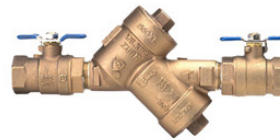
Testing of the device must be performed by a person possessing a valid certificate of competence issued by the American Water Works Association, San Luis Obispo, or Ventura County Health Departments. A list of certified testers registered with VVCS D can be found at <http://www.vvcsd.org/backflow-prevention.html>.

What does my backflow device look like?

You may find a device like one of these on your property.



Reduced Pressure Backflow Prevention Assembly (RP)



Double check valve assembly (DC)



Pressure Vacuum Breaker Assembly (PVB)



Spill-Resistant Pressure Vacuum Breaker Assembly (SVB)