

BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICES: WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES?



PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE ACT 2018 | DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FACT SHEET

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Brisbane's future

Brisbane City Council is committed to keeping Brisbane clean, green and sustainable. This fact sheet provides information to assist property owners and their representatives to better understand their responsibilities regarding the backflow prevention devices that have been installed on their property.

What is a backflow prevention device?

A backflow prevention device is a valve that prevents potentially harmful polluted water from entering the city's drinking water supply when an incident, such as a drop in pressure, causes water to be drawn back into the water main from private properties.

Are there different types of devices?

Yes, there are testable and non-testable devices. The type of device installed is determined by the potential contamination hazard level (low, medium or high). When the potential for contamination is medium or high, a testable backflow prevention device is required.

What types of installations require a testable backflow prevention device?

You may have a testable backflow prevention device on your property if you have any of the following installations:

- an irrigation system
- fire hose reels or fire hydrants
- commercial or industrial equipment or activities that could pollute the drinking water supply (air-conditioning cooling towers, chemical cleaning areas, etc.)
- water outlets in proximity to pollutants, grease traps or chemicals
- an alternate water supply.



MEDIUM HAZARD DEVICE ON A FIRE SERVICE



HIGH HAZARD DEVICE IN A BASEMENT

What are my responsibilities?

The property owner is required to register all installed testable backflow prevention devices with Council. Each year the device(s) must be tested by an endorsed backflow plumber, with an annual fee per device to be paid to Council.

What if I don't have the device tested?

Under the *Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019* (s102), a penalty of up to 20 penalty units* may apply to every device that has not been tested or registered.

What are the responsibilities of the endorsed backflow plumber?

The endorsed backflow plumber must submit an approved Queensland Government Form 9 Backflow Prevention Valve Test Report to Council within 10 business days of carrying out the work. Failing to do so may incur a penalty of up to 20 penalty units*.

How do I locate the device on my property?

Following installation, the endorsed backflow plumber will record the physical location of each device on the Form 9 and submit it to Council. Council records details of the valve location and includes it in the annual reminder when sent to property owners or their representatives.

Can I remove a testable backflow prevention device?

A backflow prevention device must remain installed if the potential hazard still exists. To ascertain if the device can be removed or replaced with a different device that does not require annual testing, consult a licensed plumbing contractor.

What is Council's role?

Under the *Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019* (s101), Council is required to maintain a program for the registration, maintenance and testing of all testable backflow prevention devices installed within the local government area. Council works with property owners or their representatives to reduce the risk of contamination of the city's drinking water by ensuring testable backflow prevention devices are serviced as required.



MEDIUM HAZARD DEVICE FOR A FIRE HOSE REEL

More information

For more information, contact Council's Plumbing Backflow Registration team via email backflow@brisbane.qld.gov.au or phone 3403 8888.

*For more information on penalty units, please visit the [Queensland Government Department of Housing and Public Works](http://Queensland Government Department of Housing and Public Works website) website.

Disclaimer: The content of this document has been developed to provide general advice and information for testable water backflow prevention devices. Brisbane City Council expressly disclaims all liability for errors and omissions of any kind whatsoever whether negligent or otherwise for any loss, damage, injury or other consequences that may arise from reliance on this publication.

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