

# BACKFLOW PREVENTION PROGRAM



PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE ACT 2018 | DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FACT SHEET

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Planning for  
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 and comply with Council's backflow prevention program.

## Why does Council have a backflow prevention program?

A backflow prevention device prevents the reverse flow of a potentially polluted source into the city's potable (drinking) water supply.

Under the *Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019*, Council is required to maintain a program for the registration, maintenance and testing of testable backflow prevention devices installed in its local government area. The regulation also sets out requirements for property owners and licensed contractors.

## How does the program work?

At the beginning of each calendar year, Council issues an annual fee notice and testing reminder to property owners, or their nominated representatives, who have registered devices. Property owners are required to pay the annual fee and arrange for their devices to be tested by a licensed contractor during the calendar year. Council issues further testing reminders throughout the year to prompt property owners whose devices remain untested. Council records test results for each device as they are received. At the end of the year, Council investigates devices with outstanding test results and may issue penalties as set out in the regulation.

## Why does Council charge a fee?

The annual fee (per device) covers:

- the administration of the testable backflow prevention program, including issuing the notices and testing reminders
- recording and maintaining testing results and documentation for every device in the local government area, and carrying out investigations and audits.

## What should I do upon receiving the annual fee notice?

The annual fee must be paid in full by the due date stated on the notice. Council will add any remaining unpaid fees at the end of the calendar year to the following year's notice at the current rate.

## When do I need to have my devices tested?

All testable backflow prevention devices must be tested at least once every year after the device is registered with Council. The testing date is at the discretion of the property owner. In most cases, devices are tested around the same time each year, either as part of a maintenance schedule or an ongoing arrangement with a licensed contractor. To assist property owners, Council issues three testing reminders throughout the year.

## 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 by 31 December.

## More information

For more information, contact Council's Plumbing Backflow Registration team via email [backflow@brisbane.qld.gov.au](mailto: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](#) website.






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Brisbane City Council  
GPO Box 1434  
Brisbane Qld 4001

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 3403 8888

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