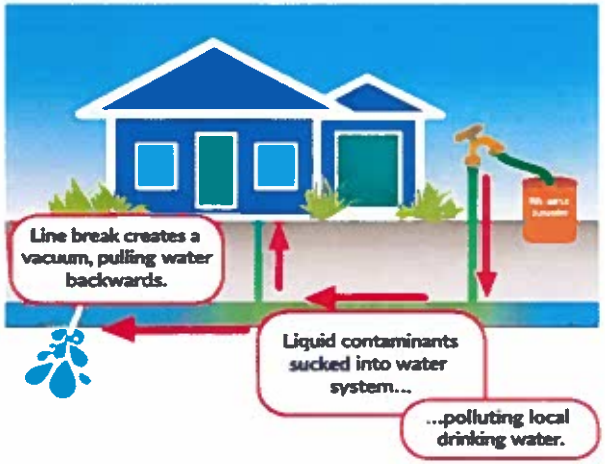
What's backflow, and why do I need to prevent it?

Your landscape irrigation system is fed by and connected to the city's drinking water system. Sudden pressure loss in the city system creates a vacuum that could pull contaminated water from residences into the city water.

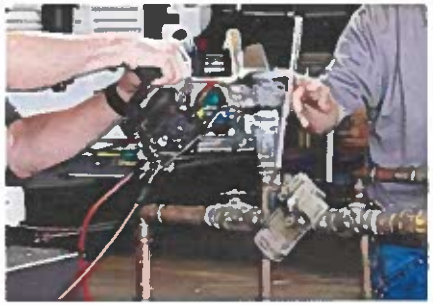
Backflow systems mechanically react to changes in pressure to prevent contaminated water from flowing back into city water.



Mainline breaks interrupt normal water flow, creating vacuum that could suck up polluted water. Backflow systems prevent accidental contamination of drinking water.

Backflow Assembly Testing

Assemblies must be tested by a commercial certified backflow technician within 10 days of initial use and annually thereafter. Completed tests must be forwarded to Glen Canyon SSD.



Hose Bib Vacuum Breakers

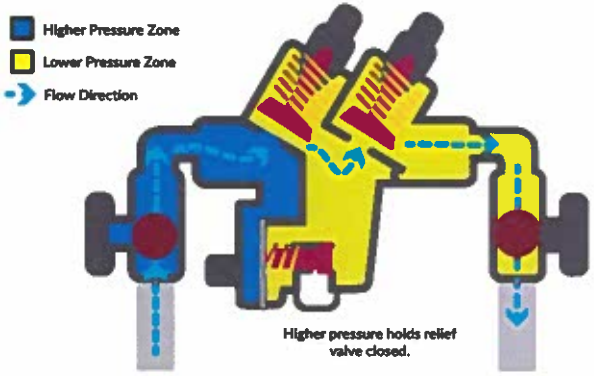
Nearly 80% of recorded national backflow incidents are from garden hoses! Garden hoses are used for a variety of purposes to Glen Canyon SSD.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION

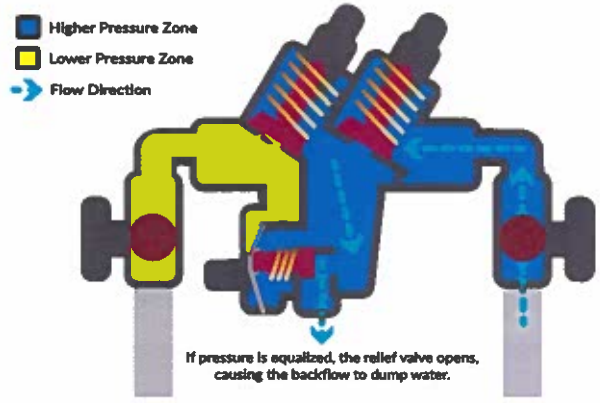
for Landscape Irrigation Systems

How do they work?

Backflow preventers mechanically react to changes in pressure. Normal flows and pressures from municipal sources push on spring regulated checks that keep pathways open. A decrease in pressure closes the check valves, preventing water from flowing back into the clean municipal source.



Normal flow
Clean, municipal water flowing towards the residence keeps spring checks open.



Backflow prevention
A decrease in normal flow causes springs to relax, preventing backflow from occuring.

Types & Recommendations

Back flow preventers come in different shapes, sizes, and with different pricetags. Which one is right for you and your property?

Reduced Presure Zone Backflow Assembly (RPZ)

- One RPZ per landscape sprinkler system
- The ONLY assembly that can be used for pressure irrigation and chemical injection landscape sprinkler systems
- Must be installed horizontally.
- Must be above ground with relief point 12 inches above ground.
- Must be installed with 12 inch clearance on all sides.
- Must be tested annually.

Best for:

Any situation, including high hazard. Can be installed anywhere except in a pit.

Pressure Vacuum Breaker (PVB)

- One PVB per landscape sprinker system.
- Must be installed horizontally.
- Must be above ground.
- Must be installed 12 inches above the highest point of sprinkler system.
- Must be tested annually.

Best for:

Flat lots, culinary water irrigation only

Anti-Siphon Control Valves

- Each valve has built in backflow prevention.
- Required on each valve in system.
- No other valves downstream.
- Must be installed above ground.
- Must be installed 6 inches above the highest point of sprinkler system.
- No testing required.

Best for:

Flat lots, culinary water irrigation only