

*We look forward to
working with you.*

*Our residential backflow
prevention program is designed to
protect our drinking water supply,
while minimizing the efforts
required of our many
residential customers.*

**For more
information
contact:**

Medford Water Commission
Residential Backflow Program
774-2450

City of Medford
Building Safety Department
774-2350

Jackson County
Planning Department
774-6900



200 S. Ivy St. – Room 177
Medford, Oregon 97501



Residential Backflow Prevention

*Working together
to protect our
drinking water*

As your water supplier, we take great care to assure that the water we provide is high in quality. But many customers don't realize that they also play a role in preserving that quality. As the owner of a new home, we'd like you to understand how contamination can originate through an individual plumbing system, and what you can do to help assure that it doesn't happen in your home.

Understanding Backflow

Normally pressure forces water to flow from the public water system to the locations where it is used. But occasionally a reduction in pressure can occur which allows backflow, or a reversal in the direction of flow. If a customer's piping is in contact with water which has become contaminated when this backflow occurs, tainted water may be drawn back into the drinking water supply, thus compromising water quality.

Sprinkler Systems

Much of the focus of our residential backflow prevention program is on underground sprinkler systems. Water in irrigation pipes can become contaminated with garden chemicals and microorganisms. Because of this, landscape irrigation systems always require installation of backflow prevention devices. State health rules stipulate that all of these devices, except Automatic Vacuum Breakers, are to be tested each year.

Many new homeowners install underground sprinkler systems as one of their first home improvement projects. It is hoped that we can assist you in avoiding the need for making later corrections.

Your Role

- Obtain a plumbing permit from your local Building Department.
- Have a backflow prevention device installed on your new sprinkler system.
- Arrange to have your backflow prevention device tested. A list of testers is enclosed.

Please inform us if you do not intend to have an irrigation system installed at your home.

Do-it-yourselfers may obtain brochures with more information on the various backflow devices and their installation requirements from the Medford Water Commission office as well as from many local irrigation suppliers.

In some circumstances, other plumbing items may also need backflow protection. Examples are solar panels, pool equipment and fire sprinkler systems. Ask us for more information if these apply to your home.

Our Role

- Medford Water Commission staff will monitor your progress in completing backflow prevention measures.
- The Water Commission will assume responsibility for annual testing and normal maintenance of the backflow prevention device after it is in place, tested and verified to be functioning properly.

If you prefer to be responsible for the testing and maintenance of your device(s), please notify us.

