



Why Do I Need a Backflow Test?

Explaining Cross Contamination & Backflow Test Requirements

WHAT IS BACKFLOW?

Backflow happens when the normal flow of water is reversed from its intended direction in any pipeline or plumbing system. The danger of backflow comes with the potential for cross-contamination: when water that has contacted chemicals or hazardous compounds *flows back* into the drinking water system.

WHEN IS A BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE REQUIRED?

State law requires that a backflow prevention device be installed on *any water system that is connected to the drinking water system and carries the potential for cross-contamination.*

For homeowners, these commonly include irrigation systems, private fire sprinkler systems, boiler systems, and pool or pond equipment. Medical and restaurant facilities must protect against additional hazards.

Northshore Utility District is responsible for providing safe drinking water to all of our customers. To ensure you receive clean, safe water to drink, the District monitors backflow protection on known health hazards to meet the requirements of WA State Administrative Code (WAC) 246.290.490.

HOW DOES BACKFLOW HAPPEN?

Backflow occurs when different levels of pressure exist between two different points within a plumbing system—water of high pressure flowing to water of lower pressure. A *backpressure* or *backsiphonage* situation may cause this reversal of normal flow direction.

BACKPRESSURE happens when the drinking water supply system is connected to a system with higher pressure levels. Without a proper backflow prevention device, potable and non-potable water or liquids can be forced into the drinking water system. Common causes include:

- ▶ Booster pumps
- ▶ Connections to boilers and other systems where thermal expansion is possible
- ▶ Interconnections with another system operated at a higher pressure
- ▶ Elevated piping (e.g.- 30' above finished grade)

BACKSIPHONAGE is caused by negative pressure in the drinking water supply system. Common causes include:

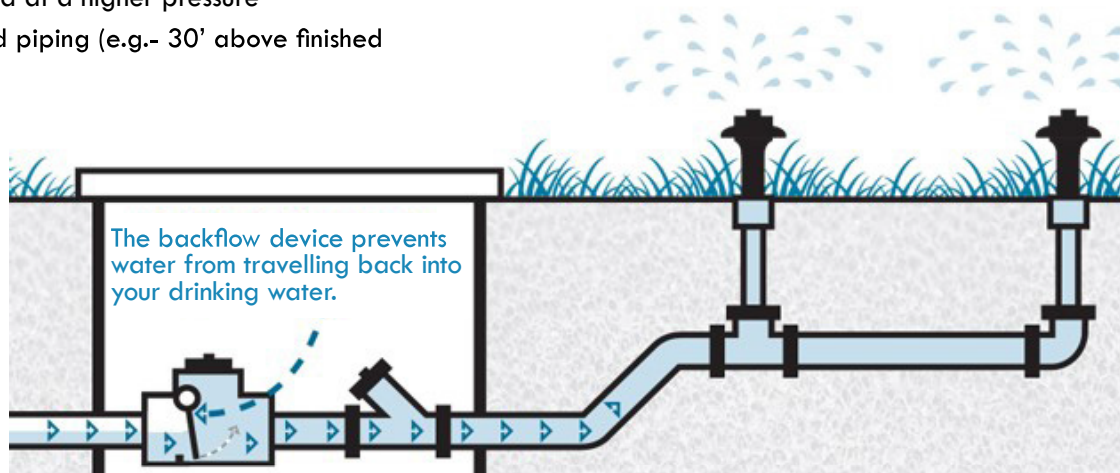
- ▶ High velocities in a pipeline
- ▶ A line repair or break that is lower than a service point
- ▶ Lower main pressure due to high withdrawal rate such as fire fighting or water main flushing



Backflow regulations help keep your water clean and safe to drink—our #1 priority.



The most common residential backflow device is a DCVA, a double check valve assembly.



COMMON BACKFLOW FAQS

Is the backflow requirement a new law?

No, the WA State Administrative Code 246-290-490 requiring protection of public drinking water has been in effect for many years. If you are just learning of the requirement, it means a recent district audit or other circumstance added your previously-unknown irrigation system to our records.

Why is the backflow test required annually?

Like any other mechanical device, over time a backflow unit may fail. To ensure it is working properly to protect home and public drinking water systems, the law mandates an annual test.

Where is my irrigation backflow device located?

Typically irrigation backflow units are located outside near your home or business water meter in a plastic box, usually green or black in color.

What if I don't use my irrigation system any more, or it is broken?

As long as an irrigation system is connected to the drinking water system—the potential for cross-contamination exists—the device must be installed and tested annually. As part of our responsibility to ensure public drinking water safety, we are obligated to follow the state law and require the test for any existing irrigation system.

Is there any way to avoid the test?

You may be exempt from an irrigation system backflow requirement if you physically disconnect (cap off) your irrigation system from the drinking water system. If you plan to do this, contact us at backflow@nud.net so we may inspect the disconnection or provide a photograph showing the disconnection. If you performed the "cut and cap" previously, send us an email or letter indicating your service address and the approximate date the system was physically disconnected.

How much does a backflow test cost?

Costs vary between vendors. The average range is between \$50 and \$80. Your irrigation professional may offer you a discount along with your regular service. Or you may be able to arrange a group of tests in your neighborhood at a discounted rate.

Does Northshore Utility District perform the test?

At this time, Northshore does not offer a backflow testing service. Each property owner is responsible for contracting a certified backflow tester to perform the test and submit the satisfactory report to the District.

As a courtesy and for your convenience, a short list of certified testers authorized to do work in the area can be found at www.nud.net/backflow. As a public entity, we cannot recommend any company over another. We advise consulting reviews and getting more than one bid for service.

What do I do when the test is complete?

Your tester should submit the satisfactory test report to us on your behalf. You should keep a copy for your records in case the test report does not reach us.

Often irrigation system backflow devices will be located in a black or green box or can near the water meter



Capping, or physically disconnecting your irrigation system, is the only way to be exempted from the requirement.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR BACKFLOW TEST?

More information on cross connection and the state test requirement is available at www.nud.net/backflow. You can also contact our water quality office at (425) 398-4419 or waterquality@nud.net.

CERTIFIED BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY TESTER LIST

*Partial list

*Many companies offer backflow assembly testing services and repair—including plumbing, irrigation, mechanical, fire sprinkler contractors as well as specialty backflow testing companies. NUD does not recommend nor endorse any specific company or tester over another. This randomly-ordered list merely shows companies who have submitted tests and certification information to our office. You may wish to call more than one company to compare services and costs. We recommend getting more than one bid.

Most testers will submit the proper paperwork to NUD on your behalf. But it is a good idea to keep a copy for your records in the event the test report is not submitted properly.

If you have any questions about backflow test requirements, please contact our Water Quality office at (425) 398-4417 or backflow@nud.net.

Company / Tester Name	E-Mail / Website	Phone
Raymark Plumbing & Sewer	customerservice@raymarkplumbing.com	206-440-9077
Soundview Landscape & Irrigation	www.soundviewli.com	425-487-2180
B.A.T. Master Backflow Service	batmasterbackflow@gmail.com	425-397-0275
Veteran Backflow Service	veteranbackflow@gmail.com	253-792-9400
French Landscape Irrigation	info@frenchli.com	425-745-8898
Finishing Touches Landscaping	customerservice@ftlandscaping.com	425-485-7758
Available Backflow Testers	jonvangstad@comcast.net	425-652-9970
ABC Water Specialty	abcwaterspecialty@gmail.com	425-355-9826
Always Testing Inc.	dandcschnee@msn.com	425-672-4345
Aquasense	office@aquasense.bz	425-881-8600
R.A. Brown Backflow Testing	rabrownbft@yahoo.com	425-821-6801
Irrigation Service and Design	irrigationservice@frontier.com	425-867-0409
Budget Backflow Testing	aquaproctors@gmail.com	425-458-8272
Austin Irrigation Inc	austinirrigation@yahoo.com	425-481-9270
Advanced Irrigation Inc.	www.AdvancedInc.com	888-833-6220 ext. 3
Grant Utilities	travisgrant@me.com	425-449-2072
Turfco Services Inc.		206-634-2461
BATman Testing	BATmanTesting@hotmail.com	206-228-1618
Backflows Northwest	chris@backflownorthwest.com	425-277-2888
DL Cole Co	darrenregcole@aol.com	206-604-6699
McLaughlin Peninsula Backflow	mpbackflow@gmail.com	206-890-8337
AWA Backflow	wabackflow@gmail.com	206-369-5660

CERTIFIED BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY TESTER LIST

*Partial list

Company / Tester Name	E-Mail / Website	Phone
Mist'er Rain Inc.	info@misterrain.com	425-454-1190
Northern Waters Inc.	admin@northernwatersinc.com	425-672-9242
Aqua Containment Company Inc.	Issy07@comcast.net	425-392-1523
5 Star Backflow Services	josh@5starbackflow.com	425-516-3580
Stop Backflow	stopbackflow@hotmail.com	425-923-7585
Pops Backflow Testing	bat.pops@gmail.com	206-551-5174
McLaughlin's Backflow Prevention	mclaughlinbackflowtesting@msn.com	206-364-9531
Tim's Backflow Testing	timsbackflowtesting@msn.com	425-770-1869
Clearwater Backflow	ClearwaterPNW@gmail.com	425-361-9552
Redwood Backflow	redwoodbackflow@hotmail.com	425-495-1939
Panther Backflow Testing	pantherbackflow@gmail.com	425-231-6360
1st Choice Testing LLC	1stchoicetesting@gmail.com	425-273-3106
Backflow Testing & Service INC	backflowtestingandservice@yahoo.com	425-334-3350
All Service Backflow	ASBackflows@gmail.com	425-584-7166
Certified Backflow Testing Inc.	backflow@comcast.net	888-484-3569
Aardvark Backflow	aardvarkbackflow@hotmail.com	425-445-5645
Malone's Landscape Management	cservice@maloneslandscape.com	253-638-2080
Affordable WA Backflow Testing & Repair	www.washingtonbackflowtesting.com	360-333-2057
A-BAT (Ron King)		425-334-6423
AACRA Backflow Testing & Repair Inc.	aacrabackflow@gmail.com	360-668-1117
Pacific Landscaping		206-366-0913
Prograss	www.prograss.com	503-682-6076
American Backflow Services	joshb@americanbackflowservices.com	877-950-2468
A+ Backflow	aplusbackflow@hotmail.com	425-830-3749
Affordable Backflow Testers LLC	Patrick_flaherty61@msn.com	206-369-6178
Alpine Sprinklers	www.alpinesprinklers.com/contact	425-391-8701
JP Landscape Services	info@jplandscape.com	425-512-2290
Good Guy Backflow Testing & Repair	goodguybackflow@gmail.com	425-516-7739
Precision Backflow	precision.backflow@yahoo.com	253-486-9375



BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY TEST REPORT

PLEASE MAKE COPIES FOR ADDITIONAL ASSEMBLIES

NEW INSTALLATION SERVICE RESTORED Account # _____

MANUFACTURER	MODEL	SERIAL NO.	SIZE
OWNER/CONTROLLER			
OWNER'S ADDRESS			
SERVICE ADDRESS			
LOCATION OF ASSEMBLY			
HAZARD ISOLATED <input type="checkbox"/> POTABLE WATER <input type="checkbox"/> IRRIGATION <input type="checkbox"/> FIRE <input type="checkbox"/> BOILER <input type="checkbox"/> _____			

R.P.B.A D.C.V.A. R.P.D.A. D.C.D.A. P.V.B.A. S.V.B.A.. AIR GAP

IS ASSEMBLY INSTALLED PROPERLY? YES NO - COMMENTS _____

INITIAL TEST RESULTS	REDUCED PRESSURE ASSEMBLY		P.V.B.A. / S.V.B.A		INITIAL TEST
	#1 CHECK PRESS DROP _____(A)	DOUBLE CHECK	AIR INLET	CHECK	PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED <input type="checkbox"/> DATE: ____/____/____ SYSTEM PSI _____
RELIEF VALVE OPENED AT _____(B) min 2 psid	CHECK #1 TIGHT <input type="checkbox"/> _____ psid	OPENED AT _____	PRESS DROP _____		
BUFFER A-B= _____ min 3 psi	CHECK #2 TIGHT <input type="checkbox"/> _____ psid	PSID _____	PSID _____		
RELIEF VALVE PASS <input type="checkbox"/> FAIL <input type="checkbox"/>	LEAKED <input type="checkbox"/>	DID NOT OPEN <input type="checkbox"/>	FAILED <input type="checkbox"/>		
REPAIRS AND/OR PARTS					
TEST AFTER REPAIRS	REDUCED PRESSURE ASSEMBLY		P.V.B.A. / S.V.B.A		FINAL TEST
	#1 CHECK PRESS DROP _____(A)	DOUBLE CHECK	AIR INLET	CHECK	PASSED <input type="checkbox"/> DATE: ____/____/____
RELIEF VALVE OPENED AT _____(B) min 2 psid	CHECK #1 TIGHT <input type="checkbox"/> _____ psid	OPENED AT _____	PRESS DROP _____		
BUFFER A-B= _____ min 3 psi	CHECK #2 TIGHT <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Psid	PSID _____	PSID _____		

IN COMPLETING AND SUBMITTING THIS TEST REPORT, THE TESTER CERTIFIES THE ASSEMBLY HAS BEEN TESTED AND MAINTAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF NORTHSHORE UTILITY DISTRICT AND THE STATE OF WASHINGTON.

TESTER SIGNATURE _____ TESTER NAME (PRINTED) _____ CERTIFICATION # _____

COMPANY READING _____ DETECTOR METER _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE # _____

Report can be faxed to (425) 398-4432 or e-mailed to backflow@nud.net