

(LOCAL NEWS BRIEF)

Cross Connection Control (Backflow Prevention) Notice:

LAWN SPRINKLERS – Federal, state, and local regulations require every municipal water supplier to develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive Cross Connection Control (backflow) program designed to safeguard the public water supply.

Lawn sprinkler systems have backflow preventers on them, and they will be starting up soon. Codes require backflow preventers to be tested after installation, annually, after re-installation, after relocation, and after repairs. After your test, testers must submit the results into TrackMyBackflow.com within 15 days to stay compliant with regulations.

What are backflow preventers?

Water normally flows in one direction, although under certain circumstances, it can flow in the opposite direction, or “backflow.” When backflow occurs, water runs backward through the water system. This could potentially introduce contaminants like bacteria, pesticides, and chemicals into your clean drinking water. Backflow can occur when water pressure changes, like during a water main break or when firefighters use hydrants.

Backflow preventers are the property of the water customer, and the responsibility lies with the customer for required annual testing and maintenance. The water customer must contract with a certified tester to perform the required tests and any necessary repairs. Most plumbing contractors and/or irrigation firms are certified to test backflow preventers. Please realize that there are costs associated with testing and maintaining backflow preventers.

Backflow preventers may be found at any number of locations on your water systems. Typically, commercial & industrial customers will have backflow preventers just after the water meter and on wet fire protection systems. Lawn irrigation systems or other water connections throughout their facilities may also have or require backflow protection.

Residential backflow preventers may be found on lawn irrigation systems, wet fire protection systems, hot water heating (boiler) systems, swimming pool fills, water features, etc. Backflow preventers may also be found or required if there is another water source on the site such as a well, pond, river, etc.

Aqua Backflow has been hired by Gilbert-Summit Rural Water District to assist with administering the backflow program. If you have or require backflow protection, you may be notified by them for compliance (testing, repairs, installations, inspections, or surveys). They can be reached at 847-742-2296 if you have questions. Aqua Backflow **does not** test, install, or repair backflow preventers.

Remember that Cross Connection Control programs are designed to safeguard public health. We ask for your cooperation with our program, its enforcement, and any requests for information that come from Aqua Backflow or the Gilbert-Summit Rural Water District staff.