

FACTS & REQUIREMENTS

Minnesota Plumbing Code Sections 602 & 603

Backflow prevention protects potable (drinkable) water from contamination by unsafe sources in one of two ways:

1. Providing a 1" vertical air gap, separating the potable water outlet from the potential contamination source, or
2. By installing a backflow prevention device (BPD) that stops backflow at the outlet.

All "testable" BPD's must be tested at installation and annually thereafter by a Minnesota Certified Tester. A test inspection tag shall be affixed to each tested device. The tester shall date and sign the tag and include their certification number.

Testable Device

Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ) *For most hazardous potable water connections and some irrigation systems. (tested annually)*



Testable Device

Pressure Vacuum Breaker (PVB) *Most common to landscape irrigation and other non-backpressure potable water connections. (tested annually)*



Non-Testable Device

Dual Check with intermediate atmospheric vent (DCIAV) *For boiler connections and landscape irrigation systems where the highest outlet is higher than the backflow preventer.*



Testable Devices

Double Check Valve (DC)

Often installed on fire suppression systems and fire suppression standpipes. (tested annually).



PRIOR TO INSTALLING A NEW BACKFLOW PREVENTER:

1. The City's Water Department must be notified within 30 days following the installation or removal of a backflow preventer on the City Water System.

TESTING RESPONSIBILITIES:

The owner of the backflow prevention device is responsible for making sure it is tested upon installation and at least annually thereafter.

1. The backflow device tester is responsible for testing the backflow device and tagging it with the testing date, tester signature and backflow certification number.
2. Written records of testing and maintenance must be maintained by the owner, and submitted to the City Water Department within 30 days following the test.

Tester qualifications and testing of backflow prevention devices requires certification to ASSE Standard 5110. Rebuilding of devices requires an additional license by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.

For additional information for protection of the potable water supply, contact your local municipal water department.
