

# BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICES

## WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES?



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*

BRISBANE CITY PLAN 2014 | DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FACT SHEET

Brisbane City Council is committed to keeping Brisbane clean, green and sustainable. This fact sheet provides information to assist property owners and tenants to better understand their responsibilities regarding the backflow prevention devices that have been installed on their property.

### What is a backflow prevention device?

A backflow prevention device is a valve that prevents potentially harmful polluted water from entering the city's drinking water supply when an incident such as a drop in pressure causes water to be drawn back into the main from private properties.

### Are there different types of devices?

Yes, there are testable and non-testable devices. The type of device installed is determined by the potential contamination hazard level (low, medium or high). When the potential for contamination is medium or high, a testable backflow prevention device is required.



HIGH HAZARD DEVICE IN A BASEMENT



LOW HAZARD DEVICE ON A FIRE SERVICE

### What types of installations require a testable backflow prevention device?

You may have a testable backflow prevention device on your property if you have any of the following installations:

- an irrigation system
- fire hose reels or fire hydrants
- commercial or industrial equipment or activities that could pollute the drinking water supply (air conditioning cooling towers, chemical cleaning areas etc.)
- water outlets in proximity to pollutants, grease traps or chemicals
- an alternate water supply.

### What are my responsibilities?

Under Queensland Government plumbing legislation, the owner of an installed testable backflow prevention device must ensure the device is registered with Council and have the device tested annually by an endorsed backflow plumber. The device owner can be the property owner or the tenant.

### What if I don't have the device tested?

Under the *Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulations 2003* (clause 38 (3)), Council has the power to issue a Penalty Infringement Notice of three penalty units\* for every device that has not been tested or registered.

### What are the responsibilities of the endorsed backflow plumber?

Within 10 business days of testing the device, the endorsed backflow plumber must submit an approved Queensland Government Form 9 Backflow Prevention Valve Test Report to Council. Under the *Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulations 2003* (clause 38 (4)), Council has the power to issue a Penalty Infringement Notice of one penalty unit\* when test results have not been submitted within 10 business days.

To find a local endorsed backflow plumber, search for an endorsed backflow plumber on the internet.



MEDIUM HAZARD DEVICE FOR A FIRE HOSE REEL

### How do I locate the device on my property?

Following installation, the endorsed backflow plumber will record the physical location of each device on the Form 9 that is submitted to Council. This description is retained by Council and included in the annual reminder sent to property owners or tenants.

### Can I remove a testable backflow prevention device?

A backflow prevention device must remain installed if the potential hazard still exists. To ascertain if the device can be removed or replaced with a different device that does not require annual testing, consult a licenced plumbing contractor.

### What is Council's role?

Council is required by law to maintain a program for the registration, maintenance and testing of all testable backflow prevention devices installed within our local government area. We work with property owners and tenants to reduce the risk of contamination of the city's drinking water by ensuring testable backflow prevention devices are serviced as required.

### Further information

For further information, contact Council's Plumbing Backflow Registration team via email [backflow@brisbane.qld.gov.au](mailto:backflow@brisbane.qld.gov.au) or phone 3403 8888.

\* For more information on penalty units, please visit [Queensland Government Department of Housing and Public Works](http://Queensland Government Department of Housing and Public Works).

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