

# Rules of Backflow Prevention

Backflow prevention devices on certain residential irrigation systems are mandatory in the City of Camas. Backflow devices protect potable (drinkable) water by preventing water on your property from moving back into the main water supply. Backflow is defined as the flow of non-potable water (unsuitable drinking water) or other liquid, solid or gas into the distributing pipes of a potable water supply because of an unwanted reverse flow, backsiphonage or backpressure. This could allow contaminants that could be in the water to flow back into the potable water, putting the public at risk.



**Backflow devices on your residential irrigation system will prevent water from moving back into the water supply.**

## HOW TO IDENTIFY IF YOU HAVE A BACKFLOW DEVICE AT YOUR RESIDENCE

There are five primary types of backflow prevention devices accepted in the state of Washington.

1. **The Air Gap:** A physical separation between the free-flowing discharge end of a potable water supply pipeline and an open, non-pressurized receiving vessel.
2. **A Reduced Pressure Principle Backflow Prevention Assembly (RP):** Contains two independently acting check valves with a pressure differential relief valve between them. This device contains two shutoff valves, one upstream and one downstream of the check valves.
3. **The Double Check Valve Assembly (DCVA):** Consists of two independently acting check valves. It also has two tightly closing shutoff valves located at each end of the device.
4. **A Pressure Vacuum Breaker (PVB):** An independently acting springloaded check valve and an air-inlet valve that opens to admit air when the pressure within the body of the device approaches atmospheric pressure.
5. **An Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker (AVB):** Consists of a check valve and an air inlet valve.

## CODES AND REGULATIONS

Any mechanical device can fail. To ensure the backflow device installed on your system is working properly, it must be tested annually. This will safeguard your health and the health of others by keeping our drinking water safe. Washington State Law (WAC 246-290) requires annual testing of backflow prevention assemblies. This testing is performed by a Washington State Certified Backflow Tester. Annual reminder notices are sent by the Public Works Department and test results must be returned to the City. A list of State Certified Backflow Testers is available on-line at [www.ci.camas.wa.us/services/utilities/irrigation.htm](http://www.ci.camas.wa.us/services/utilities/irrigation.htm).

### City of Camas Water Department

City Of Camas  
Water Department  
Operations Center  
1620 SE 8th AV  
Camas, WA 98607

Phone Hotline: 360-817-1569  
Or 360-817-1561 Extension 4256  
Fax: 360-834-1535