

Backflow Facts

10 most frequently asked questions:

- Q. How often does my backflow device need to be tested?**
A. Each year—before June 1st—after you start up your irrigation system.
- Q. Why does it need to be tested yearly?**
A. To assure the device is functioning properly—each year a large number fail.
- Q. Can I attach my underground sprinkler system to my hose bib on my home?**
A. Yes, if a backflow device is installed between the hose bib and the sprinkler system.
- Q. Is a hose bib vacuum breaker an acceptable device for a sprinkler system?**
A. No.
- Q. Is my drip irrigation part of my sprinkler system?**
A. Yes, therefore, if you have a PVB installed on your system, it must be 12 inches higher than the drip.
- Q. Are stop and waste valves allowed for isolation of sprinkler systems?**
A. No, you must use curb stop with blow out as is in the drawing (see page 2).
- Q. How high should I install a PVB?**
A. 12 inches above the highest point of use.
- Q. How high should I install a RP?**
A. 12 inches off the ground.
- Q. Can I have a hose bib off my sprinkler system downstream of my PVB?**
A. No, this can affect the performance of the device.
- Q. What can cause a reverse flow situation?**
A. A fire truck hooked up to a fire hydrant, a water main break, and any loss of pressure in the water main system.