

# BACKFLOW PREVENTION

## COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What is Backflow?**

Backflow refers to a reversal in the normal direction of water flow. If this occurs, contaminated water can be drawn back into household plumbing or the public drinking water supply. State health regulations identify situations where the potential for unsafe backflow exists, and require the use of devices designed to prevent backflow from occurring. Since water within irrigation pipes can contain microbes or garden chemicals, **backflow prevention devices are always required with irrigation/sprinkler systems.**

### **Who is responsible for the cost of installation, testing and repair?**

The owner of the assembly is responsible for the costs to install, test and maintain the assembly in proper working order.

### **Who can install a backflow assembly?**

The property owner, a licensed plumber, or a landscape contractor with the proper license.

### **Is a permit required?**

**Yes**, because sprinkler systems are connected to your household water supply, an inspection of the connection and the backflow prevention assembly is required. A plumbing permit must therefore be obtained from the City of Hermiston Building Department.

### **Where can I buy an assembly and how much do they cost?**

Local plumbing supply stores, hardware stores, and irrigation supply stores sell assemblies and establish the cost.

### **Are there special installation requirements?**

Yes, each assembly has its own unique installation requirements, depending upon manufacturer. All backflow assembly installations must comply with the standards set by the State of Oregon.

### **What do I need to know about maintenance?**

The assembly needs to be protected from freezing.

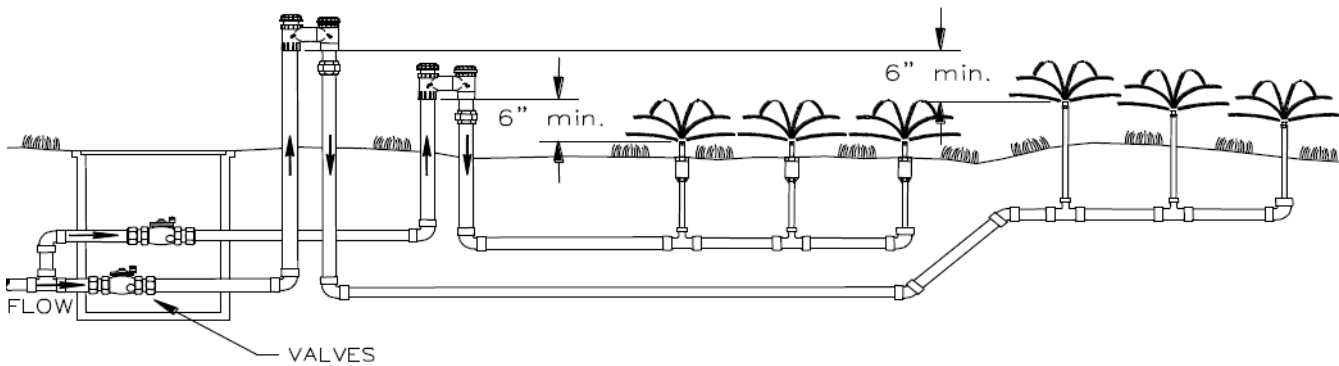
### **How often do backflow assemblies need to be tested?**

AVB assemblies are not required to be tested, but a yearly inspection is suggested. All other devices need to be tested at the time of installation, yearly, after any repairs have been done or after relocation.

### **Who can test assemblies?**

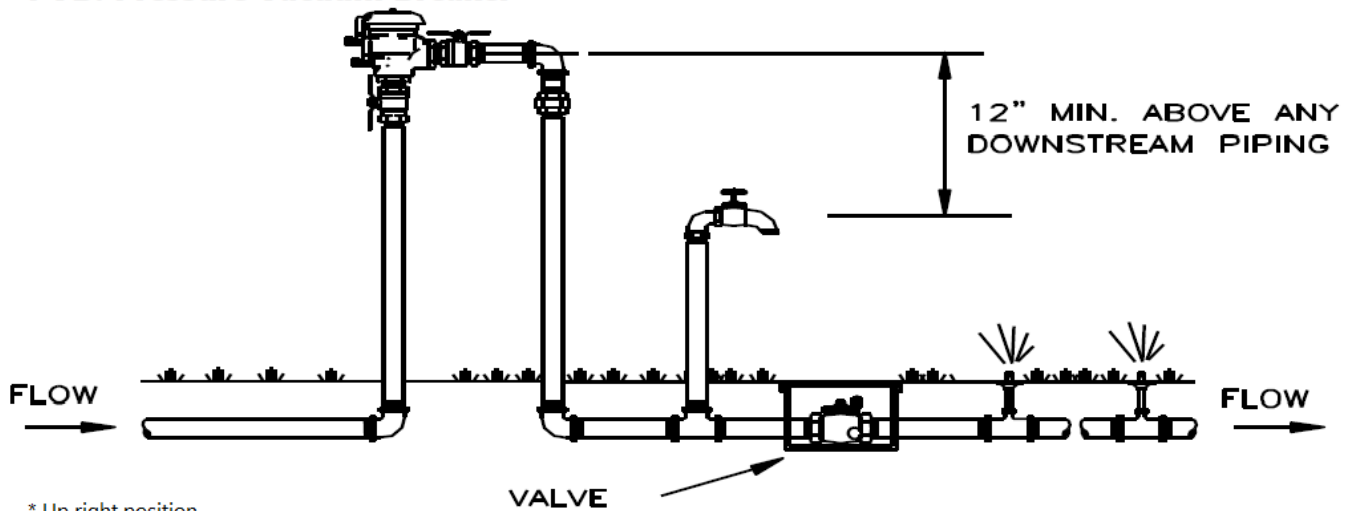
A person who has received adequate training and is certified by the State of Oregon Healthy Authority.

## AVB: Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker



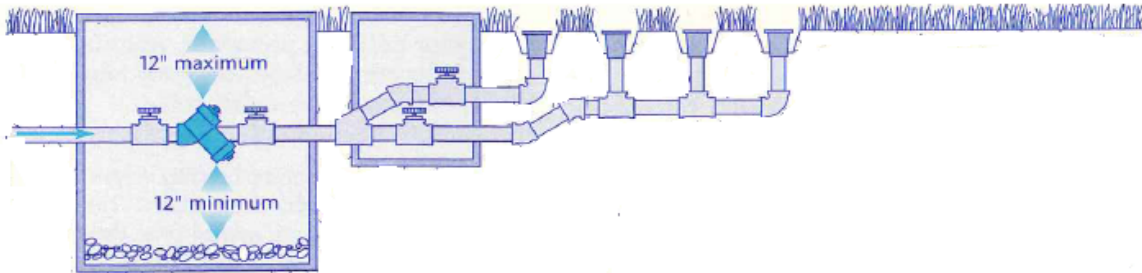
- \* Upright Position
- \* No valve downstream
- \* Minimum 6" distance above all downstream piping,  
OR minimum as stated by manufacturer's listing

## PVB: Pressure Vacuum Breaker



- \* Up right position
- \* May have valves downstream
- \* Minimum 12" above all downstream  
piping and outlets.
- \* Install to manufacturer's listing
- \* Required to be tested yearly

## DCV: Double Check Valve



- \* Horizontal unless otherwise listed.
- \* Access and clearance shall be in accordance  
with the manufacturer's instructions, and not  
less than a 12" clearance at bottom for  
maintenance.
- \* Only type of device that may be placed  
underground
- \* Required to be tested yearly

## COMPARING BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY DEVICES

FACTOR	AVB	PVB	DCV
Install above ground or below-ground?	Above ground, at least 6" above highest sprinkler	Above ground, at least 12" above highest sprinkler	Either above or below, no more than 12" below ground
Can be tested?	No, difficult to know if device has failed	Yes, requires annual test	Yes, requires annual test
Number of assemblies required?	One for each sprinkler zone	One can serve entire sprinkler system	One can serve entire sprinkler system
Ok to locate valves downstream of assembly	No	Yes	Yes

### Notes:

- Installing an underground, but accessible shutoff valve upstream of the backflow prevention device will enable you to turn off the water source to your backflow preventer and irrigation/sprinkler system for maintenance or winterizing.
- AVBs and PVBs must be left open to atmosphere at all times during which they are receiving water.
- The initial backflow assembly test is the responsibility of the installer. Annual testing is the responsibility of the homeowner to have completed and the results turned into the City of Hermiston.

Below is a list of Certified Backflow Assembly Testers as listed by the State of Oregon Health Authority

Certification Number	Tester Name	Phone Number	Employer	Address	City	State	ZIP Code
3931	Nathan A. Carper	541-938-5451	CARTER PLUMBING INC	PO Box 705	Milton Freewater	OR	97862
4209	Randy Coller	541-561-7078	Mechanix Inc	741 W Sandpiper Ave	Hermiston	OR	97838
6097	Steven W. Peterson	541-561-1980	Peterson Backflow Testing LLC	375 W Orchard Ave	Hermiston	OR	97838
6131	Christopher B. Thomas	541-379-2546	ROUND-UP CITY PLUMBING	818 Airport Rd	Pendleton	OR	97801
020005	Jakob D. Solomon	541-379-2547	ROUND-UP CITY PLUMBING	818 Airport Rd	Pendleton	OR	97801
156299	Matthew I. Morris	541-276-7221	Rob Merriman Plumbing	4354 Westgate	Pendleton	OR	97801
556935	Douglas J. Kline	541-276-2999	Kline Landscape & Irrigation, Inc.	45771 Gopher Flats	Pendleton	OR	97801
703580	Marcus V. Morris	541-276-1161	Rob Merriman Plumbing & Heating	4354 Westgate	Pendleton	OR	97801

To check for an updated testing list, you can go to <https://yourwater.oregon.gov/backflow.php?county=Umatilla>

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