

Cross Connection Control Program

The information contained within is offered to educate the public about the dangers associated with contamination of public water supply through backflow or backsiphonage and the efforts of the department to implement a cross connection program which meets all federal, state, and local rules and regulations.

As part of meeting our program obligations, the Department must have a comprehensive and proactive program aimed at reducing the likelihood of backflow due to cross connections. Such situations may pose a risk to public health by allowing the public water system to become a transmitter of organisms, toxic materials, or other hazardous substances that may adversely affect large numbers of people. A critical component for the public's protection against such occurrences is the elimination of cross connections and the isolation of such hazards from the water supply lines by properly installed and maintained backflow prevention assemblies.

Additional Information

Additional information about cross connection and backflow can be found at:

epa.gov/water

tn.gov/environment

www.abpa.org

A Reduced Pressure Backflow Assembly like pictured below must be installed for irrigation & drip/ misting systems. The device must be installed so that the lowest part of the relief valve discharge port is a minimum of 12" plus the nominal size of the discharge port above the ground.



**No leak adjustment will be made
for irrigation or pool leaks.**

Nolensville College Grove
Utility District

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**Nolensville College Grove
Utility District**

Cross Connection Control

**Backflow
Prevention**

**Testing Begins
May 1st**

**Frequently
Asked
Questions**

Please contact Nolensville College Grove Utility District if you have any questions at 615-776-2511.

What is Cross Connection? Any pipe, valve, fixture, etc., in a drinking water plumbing system that may allow the drinking water within the system to become contaminated or questionable in quality. Cross connections can either be eliminated or protected by an air gap or mechanical backflow prevention assembly. Unprotected cross connections are prohibited by Tennessee Regulation Section 68-221-711 (6) of Tennessee Code Annotated and Section 1200-56-1.17 (6) of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Rules governing Public Water Systems.

What is Backflow? Backflow is the undesirable reversal flow of water or other substances into the potable water distribution supply.

What is a backflow prevention assembly and when is it required?

A backflow prevention assembly is an approved, testable assembly that uses valves, in different configurations, to prevent potential contaminants from flowing into the potable water system. Backflow protection is required for all irrigation systems, commercial buildings, and fire protection systems.

Who can test my backflow prevention assembly? Nolensville College Grove Utility District will test all primary backflow assemblies annually. Currently Nolensville College Grove Utility District contracts the testing of all backflows within our system annually. New installations may be tested by any State of Tennessee Certified Backflow Tester and submitted to the district office when installed. Failure to submit a copy will

result in the district testing the device and all charges associated with the testing.

What do I do if my assembly fails? The assembly must be repaired within 30 days of notification. Nolensville College Grove Utility District will retest your device after the 30 day period. **You will be charged \$60.00 for each trip that is made to the premise to test the device.** If the device has not been repaired by the third testing attempt, it could result in discontinuance of service until such needed repairs are made.

What are the fees? **The fee for testing residential irrigation and commercial domestic assemblies is \$60.00. Anyone with a backflow assembly will receive a charge on their bill due in February. This fee will cover the first test of each year. If additional testing is required, you will be billed accordingly.**

Can I get a copy of my test report?

Test reports are kept on file at Nolensville College Grove Utility District. If your assembly “fails”, a copy of your test report will be left at your home. If your assembly passes, you may request a copy by mail or e-mail from Nolensville College Grove Utility District.

Do I need to be home for testing? It is not required for you to be home for the testing of the backflow device. However, **the device must be accessible for the tester and water must be to the #2 shut off of the device. You will need to schedule an appointment if there is any obstacle i.e. fence, gate, animal, etc. that would prevent the tester from having free and clear access to test the device. You will also need to schedule an appointment to test the device if you have a master valve**

on your system that keeps the water from continually being at the #2 shut off on your backflow device. The District does not have record of how your irrigation system is set up. This is your responsibility. If you do not know, you will need to contact your irrigation company.

What if I no longer use my irrigation system? If you do not plan to use your irrigation system in the future, you can disconnect it from the public water system. The disconnect method must be approved by Nolensville College Grove Utility District. For more information on disconnecting from the public water supply, please contact Nolensville College Grove Utility District at 615-776-2511.

When will my assembly be tested? Assemblies must be tested annually. **Testing begins May 1st and runs through July 31st.** You will receive a phone call in April from our contractor performing the tests for Nolensville College Grove Utility District at least 24 hours before the inspector arrives to test your device. You may want to contact our office at 615-776-2511 to update your contact information.

Who do I get to winterize and activate my irrigation system? Nolensville College Grove Utility District does not provide this service. You can choose whomever you want to activate and winterize your irrigation system. Most irrigation companies provide this service and some customers choose to do this themselves.

What do I do about high pressure on my irrigation line? A pressure reducer may be helpful on irrigation lines in high pressure areas.