

Backflow Prevention Devices

What Is Backflow Prevention?

Backflow Prevention is the term used to explain the reverse flow of water from a potentially polluted or contaminated water source into the drinkable water supply systems.

By installing a backflow prevention device, this risk can be managed.

There are a number of backflow prevention devices available to suit any particular situation.

Backflow Prevention Devices

A backflow prevention device prevents the reverse flow of potentially contaminated water into the reticulated water supply system.

Potential Sources of Contamination are but not Limited to

- Air conditioning Towers
- Irrigation Areas
- Fire Hose Reels
- Swimming Pools & Spas
- Vehicle Maintenance Pits
- Dishwasher / Glass Washer
- Vehicle Washing Bays
- Sullage Pits / Process Tanks
- Chemical injection Areas
- Boilers / Steam Pipes
- Dockside Facilities / Jetties
- Bidets / Bain-Maries
- Ornamental Ponds

Water Supply on Your Property

All water supply systems intended for human consumption, food preparation, utensil washing, or oral hygiene must be safe guarded from contaminated water.

This applies to water services connected to rainwater tanks and reticulated main water supply. A water supply should not be offensive in appearance, taste, or odour.

Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018 Section 70 –Subsection (1) – The owner of a premises must take all reasonable steps to ensure all plumbing & drainage on the premises is kept in good condition and operates properly.

AS2843.3 Clause 2.3.3 – When a testable backflow prevention valve fails the prescribed test, the duty of care to maintain a healthy drinkable water supply, the maintenance/repair of the valves must be carried out immediately when a device is known to have failed. During repairs the same level of protection must be maintained, or the affected section of water supply system shut down.

Who Makes the Decision on How & Where Backflow Prevention Devices Are to Be Installed?

Licensed plumbers & local government inspectors who are trained to observe the following Australian Standards and Legislation are qualified to do this work.

- AS/NZ 3500 National Plumbing & Drainage Standard
- AS/1345 Identification of the contents of pipes, conduits, and ducts.
- AS/2845 Water Supply Backflow
- AS/4360 Risk Management
- Plumbing & Drainage Act
- Plumbing & Drainage Regulation
- Local Authority (Local Laws)

Backflow Prevention Device Testing

Testing of backflow devices can only be carried out by a licensed plumber who is endorsed to undertake such work.

Testable backflow prevention devices must be registered with Noosa Council and tested at least once every 12 months and a written copy of the test report (Form 9) submitted to Local Government within 10 business days of test.

Related Legislation

Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019
<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/inforce/current/sl-2019-0042>

Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018
<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/inforce/current/act-2018-017>

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