For more information

Contact your local water provider:



Eugene Water & Electric Board 500 E. 4th Avenue Eugene, Oregon 97440 541-685-7000 eweb.org



Rainbow Water District 1550 N. 42nd Street Springfield, Oregon 97477 541-746-1676 **rwdonline.net**



Springfield Utility Board 250 A Street Springfield, Oregon 97477 541-746-8451 subutil.com



This brochure designed by Eugene Water & Electric Board Public Affairs Department.

Home Sprinkler Safety

Important information for do-it-yourself sprinkler system installers

Maintain a clean, healthy water supply using this information.

Protect Your Health

While sprinkler systems make it easy to waterlawns and gardens, they also pose a potential

problem. Without the proper plumbing equipment, water can flow backward (backflow) from your sprinkler system into your home's drinking water supply, as well as into neighborhood water mains. By installing a backflow preventer, you'll ensure safe drinking water for your household, neighborhood and our entire community.

All sprinkler systems must be equipped with a properly installed, state-approved backflow preventer to meet the requirements of the Oregon plumbing code. Your water supplier can provide you with information regarding an approved backflow preventer. Remember, all sprinkler systems fed by public water systems require a plumbing permit before installation.

How to Protect Your Health: Four Types of Backflow Preventers



ATMOSPHERIC VACUUM BREAKER (AVB)

- Cannot be tested to ensure safe operation and health protection
- Several may be needed to protect the whole system
- Elevated piping or valves not allowed downstream



PRESSURE VACUUM BREAKER ASSEMBLY (PVBA) SPILL RESISTANT VACUUM BREAKER ASSEMBLY (SVBA)

- Must be tested to ensure safe operation and health protection
- Only one PVBA or SVBA needed to protect the whole system
- Elevated piping not allowed downstream



DOUBLE CHECK VALVE ASSEMBLY (DCVA)

- Must be tested to ensure safe operation and health protection
- Only one DCVA needed to protect the whole system
- Elevated piping allowed downstream

REDUCED PRESSURE BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY (RPBA)

- Must be tested to ensure safe operation and health protection
- Elevated piping allowed downstream
- Only backflow preventer allowed for application of fertilizer or other lawn chemicals through sprinkler system
- Only backflow preventer allowed for sprinkler systems connected to both an on-site well and city water system.



DOUBLE CHECK VALVE ASSEMBLY

- Only one DCVA is required to serve the whole system; control valves are allowed downstream of a DCVA.
- DCVA must be installed a minimum of 12 inches above ground level in SUB or RWD water service areas. In EWEB service areas, DCVA may be installed below ground, provided that test ports are plugged, and proper clearances for testing and repair are maintained.

• The DCVA must be tested by a state-certified tester when installed, at least annually and when moved or repaired.

- No chemicals or fertilizers can be introduced through a sprinkler system equipped with a DCVA.
- Freeze protection required.

PRESSURE VACUUM BREAKER ASSEMBLY (PVBA) SPILL RESISTANT VACUUM BREAKER ASSEMBLY (SVBA)

- Only one PVBA/SVBA is required to serve the whole system; control valves are allowed downstream of a PVBA/SVBA.
- The PVBA/SVBA must be installed a minimum of 12 inches above the highest point of the sprinkler heads in the zone.
- The PVBA/SVBA must be tested by a state-certified tester when installed, at least annually and when moved or repaired.
 - No chemicals or fertilizers can be introduced through a sprinkler system equipped with a PVBA/SVBA.
 - Freeze protection required.





REDUCED PRESSURE BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY

- Only one RPBA is required to serve the whole system; control valves are allowed downstream of a RPBA.
- RPBA must be installed a minimum of 12 inches above ground level.
- The RPBA must be tested by a state-certified tester when installed, at least annually and when moved or repaired.
- Chemicals or fertilizers can be introduced into the sprinkler system down stream of the RPBA.
 - The RPBA must be used if a sprinkler system is connected to both an on-site well and city water system.
 - Freeze protection required.

(PVBA