

Backflow Prevention and Owner Responsibilities

A backflow prevention device prevents the reverse flow of water from a potentially polluted source into the potable (drinking) water supply system. You may have a backflow prevention device fitted on your property if you have any of the following:

- an irrigation system
- fire hose reels or hydrants
- a commercial or industrial activity or machinery connected to the mains
- water outlets in proximity to pollutants, grease traps or chemicals
- an underground rainwater tank that has mains water backup.

If you have a testable backflow prevention device on your property it must be tested annually and the test results forwarded to Douglas Shire Council. Reduced pressure zone, double check and some single check valves are testable backflow prevention devices. The details of the device must also be registered with Douglas Shire Council.

Testing of backflow prevention devices

It is a requirement under the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002* that owners of installed testable backflow prevention devices must:

- register the device with the local government
- at least once each year, have the device inspected or tested by a person who is licensed to do the work.

It is the responsibility of the plumber to forward the test results to Douglas Shire Council within 10 business days of testing the device.

Backflow prevention device register

Douglas Shire Council has a responsibility under Queensland legislation to maintain a program for the registration, maintenance and testing of testable backflow prevention devices installed in its area.

The information supplied to Douglas Shire Council from the test report submitted by the plumber is recorded in the register to ensure that the installed devices are tested annually and that the Douglas Shire Council fee has been received.

Douglas Shire Council charges an annual fee per device which is used to maintain the register and for any correspondence that may need to be sent to owners. If a device is installed, regardless if it is still in use, it needs to be tested and registered.

New devices

When a new backflow device is installed it is necessary to register it with Council and have it tested by a licensed and endorsed plumber. It is the responsibility of the licensed plumbing contractor to submit a Form 4 to the QBCC and forward a copy of the completed Form 9 to Douglas Shire Council.

Replacing a device

When you employ a plumber to replace a faulty device, it is the responsibility of the licensed plumbing contractor to submit a Form 4 to the QBCC. Douglas Shire Council should be forwarded a copy of the completed Form 9 noting the new serial number and the serial number and site location of the device being replaced.

Removing a device

When you employ a plumber to remove a backflow prevention device, it is the responsibility of the licensed plumbing contractor to submit a Form 4 to the QBCC. In the case of removal, Council's Plumbing and Drainage Department should be informed in writing, noting the serial number of the device being removed, and the reason for removal. Notice can be sent by email to enquiries@douglas.qld.gov.au or by mail to PO Box 723, Mossman QLD 4873.

An audit may be conducted by Council's Plumbing Inspector on all removed Backflow Devices.