

Keep Your Water Supply Safe

Home

IRRIGATION SAFETY

Important information for do-it-yourself irrigation system installers

Important information for **do-it-yourself** irrigation system installers

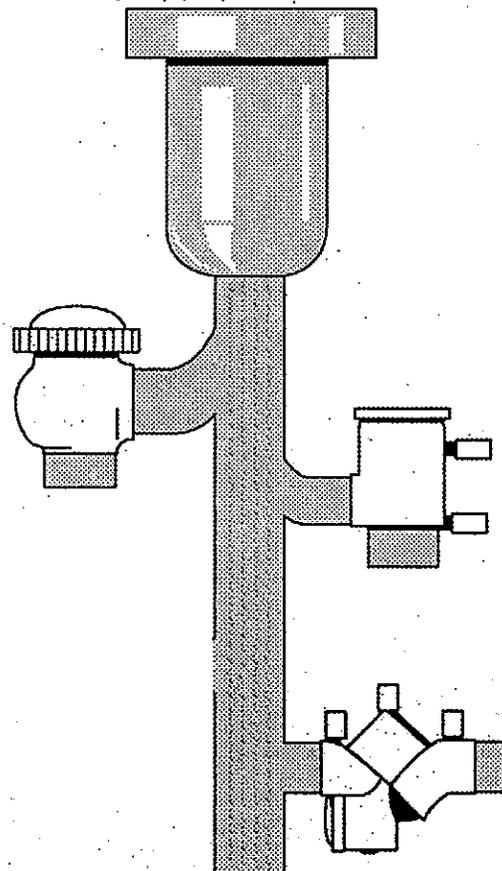
Some laws and regulations regarding backflow protection and approval of type of pipe used may vary depending upon local requirements.

For more specific information we advise you to contact your local water supplier at:

TAHOE CITY
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
P.O. Box 5249
Tahoe City, CA 96145

*This pamphlet has been
prepared and edited by:*

Pacific Northwest Section
American Water Works Association
Cross Connection Control Committee



If your irrigation system uses water from **city water supplies** or from **private wells**, the information in this brochure will help you maintain a clean, healthful water supply.

Backflow Prevention Alternatives

Four types of Backflow Prevention Devices

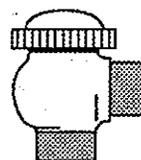
For home irrigation systems.

Irrigation systems make watering lawns and gardens easier and save your time.

But, they require special equipment to prevent contaminated water from siphoning back (backflow) into home plumbing and city water systems. Irrigation systems not protected by approved backflow prevention devices endanger the health of a household, neighborhood and community.

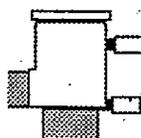
All irrigation systems—new or existing—**must be equipped** with a State Health Department-approved back-flow prevention device. Only properly installed, State-approved back-flow prevention devices meet the plumbing code and provide protection for the health of your family and neighbors. Your local water utility can give you a free list of State-approved devices and certified testers.

All irrigation systems supplied by public water systems **require a plumbing permit** prior to installation.



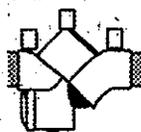
Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker (AVB)

- Least expensive
- Often the easiest to install



Pressure Vacuum Breaker Assembly (PVBA)

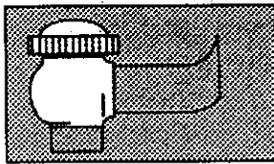
- More sophisticated
- More versatile
- Requires annual test by certified tester



Reduced Pressure Backflow Assembly (RPBA)

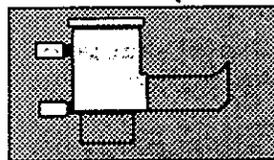
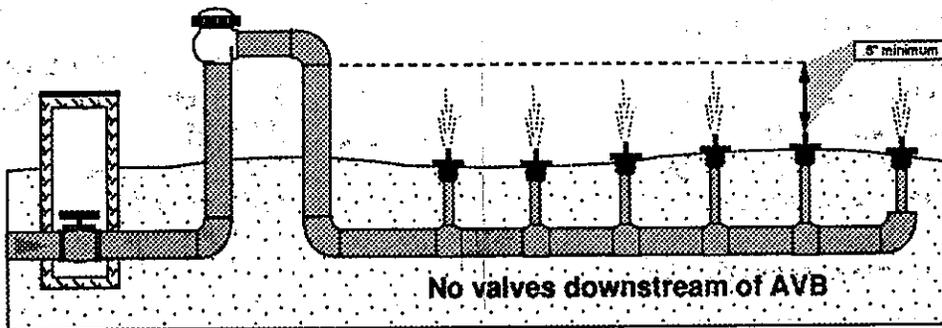
- Usually most expensive
- Most complex
- Allows for application of fertilizer or other chemicals through irrigation system (no other type has this approval)
- Requires annual test by certified tester

Installation Requirements for each type of Backflow



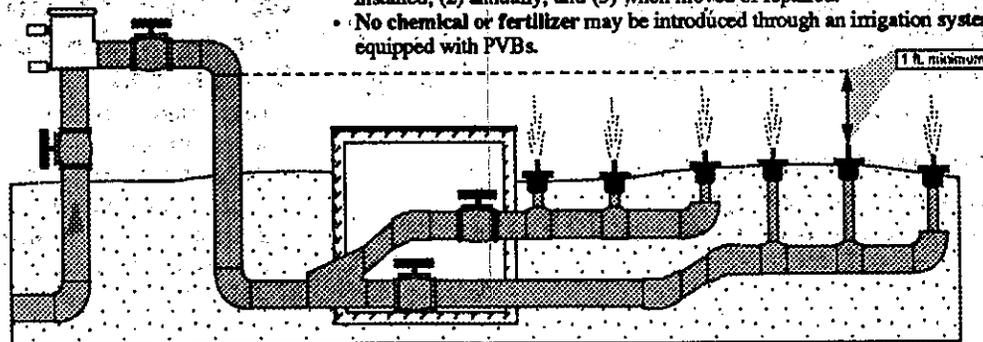
Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker (AVB)

- One AVB required for each irrigation zone; no control valves (on/off valves) allowed downstream of an AVB.
- Each AVB must be installed a minimum of six inches (6") above the highest piping in the zone it serves.
- No chemical or fertilizer may be introduced through an irrigation system equipped with AVBs.



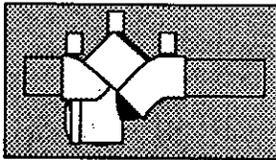
Pressure Vacuum Breaker Assembly (PVBA)

- Only one PVB required to serve the whole system; control valves can be located downstream of the PVB.
- PVB must be installed a minimum of one foot (12") above the highest piping it serves.
- PVBs must be tested by a State-certified Backflow Device Tester: (1) when installed; (2) annually; and (3) when moved or repaired.
- No chemical or fertilizer may be introduced through an irrigation system equipped with PVBs.



Backflow Prevention Device.

Notes:



Reduced Pressure Backflow Assembly (RPBA)

- Only one RP is required to serve the whole system; control valves can be located downstream of the RP.
- RP must be installed a minimum of one foot (12") above ground level.
- RP must be tested by a State-certified Backflow Device Tester: (1) when installed; (2) annually; and (3) when moved or repaired.
- In an RP-equipped system, fertilizer and other agricultural chemicals may be introduced downstream of the RP.

