

Backflow Prevention Policy

December 2011

Council Policy on Backflow Prevention

1. That all new non-domestic connections are fitted with an approved backflow prevention device appropriate for the level of risk associated with the activities undertaken within the property.
2. That all new domestic connections and any new non-domestic connections that are not assigned as a medium or high risk shall have a non-testable double check valve installed on the connection.
3. That all new rural connections shall have a testable double check valve installed on the connection.
4. That a programme of investigation be progressively undertaken to assess all existing connections and, where required, have the appropriate backflow device installed.

Levels of Risk

Council assigns one of three levels of risk, in terms of backflow, to each property in the district:

- High - where contamination of the supply by backflow may result in serious risk to health problems or death.
- Medium - where contamination of the supply by backflow may result in minor risk to health problems and/or cause aesthetic problems (taste, smell, colour contamination).
- Low - where contamination of the supply by backflow may result in minor aesthetic problems (taste, smell, colour contamination).

Property Owner Responsibilities

Property owners connecting any piping system in a way that might lead to contamination of the water supply, must protect the service connection at the point of supply with an approved backflow prevention device.

Backflow prevention devices must be tested annually by a registered Independently Qualified Person. The testing of the backflow prevention devices will be undertaken by the council.

Where Council considers there is an existing backflow risk and consistent with the Health (Drinking Water) Amendment Act 2007, Council will install protection devices for containment, and will require the property owner to reimburse the Council for the cost of the system which may include installation and on-going maintenance.

Residential properties will be excluded unless they incorporate systems or components on the property that elevate their risk. Examples include but are not limited to sewer pump stations, septic tanks, submerged irrigation systems and alternative water supplies.

All properties containing backflow protection must be resurveyed at 5 yearly intervals by a Council approved backflow surveyor to confirm the risk profile has not changed.