



Life's Just Better Here

BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY TESTS

FACT SHEET

- The field test of the backflow assembly takes about ten minutes.
- If it needs a cleaning or new rubber repair parts, it may take a few minutes more.
- Often the assembly only needs to be cleaned.
- If the assembly needs to be repaired, the rubber parts repair kits are usually very reasonable.
- Usually, the initial test, a good cleaning, replacing any damaged rubber parts, and a final test can be accomplished in one hour for assemblies 2" and smaller.
- Many certified testers have repair parts on their truck. If not, they can order and receive repair parts with a next-day delivery, if necessary.
- These approved backflow prevention assemblies are designed to last from 20 to 50 years. They should not be replaced unless parts are no longer available or if the assembly has sustained damage to the body.
- The reduced pressure backflow prevention assembly (RP) only requires four tests:
 1. Check valve #1 must hold tight.
 2. The relief valve should open before the gauge drops below 2.0 psi.
 3. Check valve #2 must hold tight with back-pressure.
 4. Check valve #1 should read 5.0 psi or higher on the gauge.
- The assembly should be able to be tested even if the outlet shut-off valve has a slight leak. Most times, the assembly simply needs to be cleaned internally.
- If you have a double check valve assembly (DCVA), there are only two tests:
 1. Check valve #1 must read 1.0 psi or higher on the gauge.
 2. Check valve #2 must read 1.0 psi or higher on the gauge.
- Lawn irrigation systems must have either a RP or Pressure Vacuum Breaker for proper protection of your drinking water and the public water system.
- If you have a Pressure Vacuum Breaker (PVB), there are only two tests:
 1. The air inlet valve must open before the gauge drops below 1.0 psi.
 2. The check valve must hold a minimum of 1.0 psi.
- The fee to plumbers for filing the completed test report is \$25.00. The plumber will include this cost in his fee to you.

