

## History

The 1996 Clean Drinking Water Act initiated laws for Cross Connection.

Beginning in 2025, EEWA association members are responsible for coordinating annual backflow testing for their sprinkler backflow prevention assemblies connected to the water system as well as any necessary repairs.

## Cross Connection

Why does cross connection matter?

Cross connections provide pathways for contaminants to enter the drinking water supply.

## Backflow

***Backflow occurs when:***

Contaminated water enters the main water supply by means of back pressure or back siphonage.

### Helpful hints for selecting a contractor:

As the owner of the backflow assembly that is now or will be due for the annual test, it is your responsibility to ensure that the EEWA office receives a passing test report for the assembly in a timely manner.

We feel the best way to ensure this is to ask your potential tester the following five questions before hiring them to perform the work:

1. Are you licensed through the State of Idaho to perform Backflow Assembly Tests?
2. Will you submit completed test reports to the customer and the EEWA office promptly?
3. If the assembly fails its initial test, do you clean the assembly and re-test immediately?
4. If cleaning does not resolve the failure, do you have the tools and parts on hand necessary to perform repairs or do you have the ability to make repairs within ten (10) days?

Hopefully after receiving answers to these questions, you should be more informed in making the correct decision in the hiring of your backflow assembly tester.

The EEWA Website has links to resources for locating licensed backflow testing contractors.

### Emerald Estates Water Association

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## Emerald Estates Water Association Backflow Prevention

Maintaining the integrity of our public drinking water system.

# A Guide to Backflow and Cross Connection

(Updated October 2024)





### **EEWA Backflow Testing:**

All properties with automatic sprinkler systems will receive a testing notice in the mail informing them of the annual testing requirements.

Association members must then schedule a backflow test with the certified backflow test contractor of their choice.

Turn on and run your sprinkler system prior to arrival of your contractor.

Provide a successful backflow test report for your property to the EEWA association office no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. A current instrument calibration certification must accompany the contractor's backflow test report. Reports may be submitted electronically to [eewa\\_hayden@yahoo.com](mailto:eewa_hayden@yahoo.com) or they may be submitted via USPS to PO Box 1082 Hayden, ID 83835.

Failure to comply with backflow testing may result in disconnection of water service. If this occurs, a reconnection fee of \$200.00 will apply.

Association members are responsible for all costs associated with the installation, maintenance, testing, and repair of all backflow assemblies on their property.

A satisfactory backflow test must be submitted annually by June 30th.

### **How much does the backflow testing cost?**

The cost for the annual backflow test is determined by the contractor who provides the backflow test service.

### **What happens if my device fails?**

Association members should be notified by their contractor immediately of any failed backflow test. Association members are responsible for ensuring any required repairs are made in a timely manner so they can provide a successful test report to the association office no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.

Association members can make the repairs themselves or use a qualified contractor. Retesting following any repairs must be made by a certified backflow testing contractor.

Per the Idaho DEQ Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems 58.01.05.552.06(e):

"Assemblies that cannot pass annual tests or those found to be defective are to be repaired, replaced, or isolated within ten (10) business days. If the failed assembly cannot be repaired, replaced, or isolated within ten (10) business days, water service to the failed assembly must be discontinued."

### **ATMOSPHERIC VACUUM BREAKER SPRINKLER DEVICE PROCESS: (AVB's)**

EEWA requires verification for AVB sprinkler devices to ensure that the sprinkler system configuration meets the following criteria:

- AVB's must be at least 6" above the highest outlet or piping.
- Must have no downstream valves and cannot be subject to pressure for more than 12 hours in a 24-hour period.

Properties with AVB sprinkler systems must submit a documentation of inspection to EEWA. Updated documentation will be required when there is a change of homeownership.

*Failure to comply with state law regulations of proper installation can result in termination of your water service.*