

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What are the State of Illinois Administrative Codes that require annual backflow testing?

Illinois Administrative Code - Specifically 77 Ill. Adm. Code 890 provides regulatory requirements for backflow prevention devices and 225 ILCS 320 provides the Illinois Plumbing License Law.

## What are some common Cross Connections?

Commercial properties - from carbonated beverage machines and ice-makers, fire suppression systems and x-ray machines.

Residential properties - from lawn irrigation, fire sprinkler systems and even a common garden hose, when submerged in water.

## How do I know when my device needs to be tested?

Backflow Solutions, Inc. (BSI) will send you a letter thirty days before your device is due for its annual test. This letter will include a unique Customer Confirmation number that your testing contractor will use to register your test results.

## Does my backflow device still need to be tested if I no longer use my sprinkler system?

Yes. The State requires that devices are tested annually whether or not the system is in use. However, you may opt into the Village's Backflow Prevention Lock Program to avoid annual backflow testing.

## Does BSI perform backflow testing?


No, BSI is not permitted to do any testing. However, they do maintain a list of contractors in the area that can be obtained upon request at 800.414.4990.

## Do I send my test report to BSI from now on?

No, your backflow testing contractor will submit your test results for you. Please note that BSI charges an annual \$14.95 filing fee.


# Want More Information?

## Backflow Solutions, Inc. (BSI)

 800.414.4990

 [www.bsionline.com](http://www.bsionline.com)

## Village of Deerfield Public Works & Engineering Department

 847.317.7245

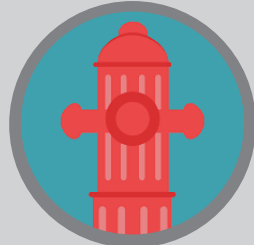
 [publicworks@deerfield.il.us](mailto:publicworks@deerfield.il.us)

 465 Elm Street, Deerfield



VILLAGE OF DEERFIELD

# Keep Our WATER SYSTEM Safe



Village of Deerfield  
Public Works & Engineering  
Cross Connection Control Program  
847.317.7245

## How can you help keep our water system safe?

To start, you will need to know the terms **Cross Connection**, **Backflow** and **Reduced Pressure Zone** (RPZ).

### What is a Cross Connection?

A Cross Connection is an arrangement of piping on a home or building's plumbing system that could result in a backflow of contaminants into the public drinking water supply system. As required by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Public Health, every drinking water system in Illinois must have a cross connection control program, also known as a backflow prevention program.



### What is Backflow?

A backflow refers to a reversal of flow from a home or building's plumbing system back into the public drinking water supply system. A backflow may occur when there is a pressure drop in the public drinking water supply system from a water main break or other failure. A backflow may also occur when a plumbing fixture such as a boiler or pump generates more pressure than the public supply system and pushes water back into the public drinking water supply system. Backflow prevention is designed to protect the public water supply from contamination from non-drinkable sources. For this reason, the Village of Deerfield created a cross connection control program with the goal of ensuring the quality of Village supplied water and protecting customers.



### What is an RPZ?

An RPZ is a Reduced Pressure Zone backflow device. This device prevents backflow from fire suppression and irrigation systems and must be certified and tested annually by a licensed inspector prior to the system going into service.

## Pass the Test with BSI's Help

### Who is BSI?

The Village of Deerfield contracted with Backflow Solutions, Inc. (BSI) to manage our backflow inspection program. BSI has experience managing similar programs for municipalities across Chicagoland and will serve as the primary contact for backflow inspections within the Village.



### Why is backflow device testing required?

Backflow assemblies are mechanical devices and are subject to failure from wear and tear, corrosion, freezing, water conditions and misuse. Testing ensures that the assemblies are operating as required to prevent backflow of contaminated or polluted water into the public drinking water supply.

### How much does testing cost and how do I select an inspector?

You should contact a licensed inspector to obtain pricing to test your residential backflow assemblies. Cost of testing varies between contractors and by the number of backflow assemblies within the plumbing system.



Water customers with previously registered backflow devices will receive a notification and reminder directly from BSI Online that testing is due. The customer is free to choose any licensed backflow tester they want. Once the annual inspection is complete, the licensed tester will enter that information directly into BSI's online reporting system.

While BSI does not perform the backflow tests themselves, they do have a comprehensive list of certified contractors that can be obtained upon request. Please note that BSI charges a filing fee of \$14.95.

## Backflow Prevention Lock Program & More

### What are the common causes of Backflow Contamination?

Irrigation systems may contain pesticides, herbicides and biological organisms such as bacteria, worms, animal droppings and other contaminants. Boilers create back pressure that pushes contaminated water back into the water supply and can contain bacteria, mold and chemicals. Hoses may be submerged in swimming pools, mud puddles, utility sinks, buckets, etc. and can act as a siphon hose.

### What is a Hose Bibb Vacuum Breaker?

A Hose Bibb Vacuum Breaker is a backflow prevention device. It is common to most hose bibb (spigot) systems and is an effective way of preventing contaminants from backflowing through a garden hose and into the public water supply system. An approved Hose Bibb Vacuum Breaker is required on all hose bibbs. Hose bibbs cost approximately \$10 and are available at your local hardware store.



### What is the Backflow Prevention Lock Program?

For residents that do not use their sprinkler systems and do not want to continue paying for annual backflow testing, the Public Works and Engineering Department offers a backflow prevention lock program. The lock can be installed on the water shut-off valve that supplies the sprinkler system. The device costs \$45 to have installed and has an annual \$25 re-inspection fee that begins the second calendar year that the device is installed. To sign up for the program, visit [www.deerfield.il.us](http://www.deerfield.il.us), print out and sign the lock agreement form and return it to Public Works at 465 Elm Street with a \$45 check written to the Village of Deerfield.

