



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICES

Isaac Regional Council's priority is safe drinking water and a major part of this is continual management of backflow prevention devices in our towns and rural areas. The Isaac Regional Council building services department keeps a detailed record of every backflow prevention device installed in the Isaac region for annual testing.

WHAT IS BACKFLOW AND BACKFLOW PREVENTION?

Backflow occurs when water flows opposite to its normal or intended direction. It occurs because of back-siphonage or back-pressure.

It is important that backflow prevention valves (one way valves) are installed and checked regularly in all water systems. Installing a backflow prevention device ensures that water from a property cannot be drawn back into the main drinking water supply, keeping water flowing safely in the right direction and preventing the chance of contamination.

WHY DO WE CHECK BACKFLOW DEVICES?

Water based epidemics are without doubt life threatening. Many cases of water contamination can be traced to defective backflow valves in consumer, business and industrial environments.

Isaac Regional Council maintains a register of all backflow devices and their annual maintenance date in accordance with the *Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019*. Regular inspections and annual testing help ensure our precious water supply is free of contaminants.

WHO NEEDS A BACKFLOW DEVICE?

Backflow prevention starts by isolating a possible contamination source from entering the town mains or storage tanks (rainwater tanks) from a tap or appliance.



Examples of potential sources of contamination:

- Firehose reels
- Irrigation
- Swimming pools
- Vehicle maintenance pits
- Ornamental pounds
- Air-conditioning towers
- Vehicle and bin washing bays
- Chemicals injection areas

Examples of properties requiring backflow prevention:

- Hotels, motels and caravan parks
- Unit complexes
- Vehicle repair workshops
- Shops
- Restaurants
- Medical and dental surgeries
- Car and plant washing facilities
- Dry cleaners and laundries
- Hospitals and funeral parlours
- Club houses for sports
- Schools
- Day care centres and kindergartens
- Pest control vehicles
- Water carrying vehicles
- Botanic gardens

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
ISAAC.QLD.GOV.AU | **1300 ISAACS** (1300 47 22 27)

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DO I NEED A BACKFLOW DEVICE?

The first step is to ask a licensed backflow plumber to inspect your property and provide advice if a device is needed and what appropriate backflow prevention device(s) are required.

There are a number of different backflow prevention devices available. The type of device required will depend on the risk rating of the property with the potential hazard. The licensed backflow plumber will be able to provide you with all the relevant information.

You then need to make an application to install a testable backflow prevention device through the Council Building Services Department.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

It is the property owner's responsibility to ensure the appropriate backflow device is installed. Once installed, property owners must:

- Register backflow devices with Council
- Have devices tested annually by a licensed backflow plumber
- Pay annual device registration fees

DO I NEED TO HAVE MY BACKFLOW DEVICE TESTED?

You need to have your backflow device tested annually. To arrange for backflow testing or installation of a backflow device on your property,

contact a licensed backflow plumber.

When submitting annual test reports, use Form 9 supplied by Council or your licensed plumber and submit to Isaac Regional Council by: post at PO Box 97 Moranbah Qld 4744; email at records@isaac.qld.gov.au; or over the counter.

A person who inspects or tests a backflow prevention device must within 10 business days after inspecting or testing provide Council with written results of the inspection or test.



*Maximum penalty - 20 penalty units Plumbers - Up to \$2,669

HAVE YOU RECEIVED A LETTER FROM ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL ABOUT BACKFLOW TESTING?

Council is continuing to keep our drinking water safe with annual testing of all backflow prevention devices in our region in accordance with the *Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019*. If you do not comply, you may be issued penalty infringements notices (fines). Please do your part to protect our precious water supply.



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WHAT IF I DON'T COMPLY?

If you are required to have a Backflow Prevention Device on your property and you fail to provide annual test results to Council, you are in breach of the *Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003*, as such you will incur penalty infringements and enforcement notices until you comply with the regulation.

PENALTIES AND FINES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

Backflow Prevention Devices come under the *Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019*, Part 7 Division 7 Section 102, which states that:

An owner of an installed testable backflow prevention device must -

- (a) register the device with the local government or entity; and
- (b) at least once each year, have the device inspected or tested by a person who is licensed to do the work

*Maximum penalty - 20 penalty units

Property owners - up to \$2,669 plus local government penalties.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Queensland Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018, Section 71

www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2018-017

Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019, Section 101-103

www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/asmade/sl-2019-0042

Backflow Prevention Association of Australia
<http://bpaa.org.au>

*Value of Penalty Units are set by State Penalties Enforcement Registry. Values current as at 1 July 2019.



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