

## **BACKFLOW TESTING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What is a backflow prevention device?**

A backflow prevention device prevents water from irrigation systems, hot tubs, pools, new construction or other sources of potentially impure water from flowing back into the pure general drinking water supply.

### **Where is the backflow device located?**

The device is required to be attached after the water meter on the service pipe between the meter and residential or business service.

### **What is the requirement for testing this device?**

New York State Sanitary Code requires that backflow devices be tested annually by a certified backflow tester. In addition, the Water Authority regulations require that all properties with in-ground sprinkler systems have rain gauges or moisture sensors installed and tested annually by a certified backflow tester.

### **By what date must the test(s) be done?**

All test certifications must be received by the Water Authority by the date on the two notices provided in your water bills. A green “First Notice” is included in your first quarter water bill. A yellow “Urgent Notice” is included in your second quarter bill. Both documents clearly state a specific due date. You can also [click here](#) for Backflow due dates.

### **Who is responsible for making sure the test certification is received on time?**

The customer, not the backflow tester, is responsible for making sure the test certification is received by the Water Authority by the due date.

### **What happens if the test results are not received on time?**

If the completed test results are not received by the Authority by the due date, a red letter will be mailed and a non-reversible \$30.00 late fee will be added to the customer’s account. The customer will have **eighteen (18)** days from the date of the red letter to have the test forms received by the Water Authority or water service will be discontinued. If the service is discontinued, all associated non-reversible fees will be charged to the customer’s account.

### **Where can I get a list of certified backflow testers?**

[Click here](#) for a list of certified backflow testers.

**What about individuals who do not have Internet access?**

Customers without Internet access can call the Water Authority at 516-487-7975, ext. 18.