

## Why does DeKalb County have this program?

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) requires DeKalb County to have a backflow prevention program.

This program is designed to protect the public water supply from pollutants and contaminants that could, under certain circumstances, be drawn into the county water system from private properties.

DeKalb County  
Department of Watershed Management  
Office of Engineering & Construction  
Management Services  
Regulatory Compliance Division

Backflow Prevention Section  
4572 Memorial Drive  
Decatur, Georgia 30032

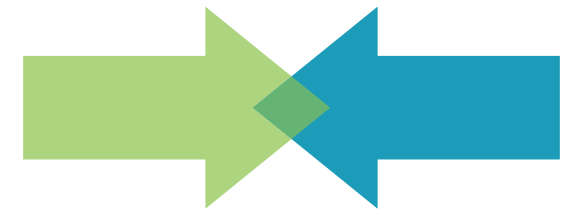
For Appointments Please Call:  
(404) 687-4075  
7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

[dekalbackflow@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:dekalbackflow@dekalbcountyga.gov)



DeKalb County  
GEORGIA

Department of  
Watershed Management



## Backflow Prevention

AN INFORMATIVE GUIDE FROM DEKALB COUNTY

The DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management protects public health, safety and welfare through the provision of safe drinking water and quality wastewater treatment.

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# BACKFLOW PREVENTION

## What is backflow?

Backflow is the reversal of flow in a water system from the normal or intended direction of flow.

## Why is backflow prevention necessary?

To prevent any potential contaminants or pollutants from entering the water distribution system from private plumbing systems; either from back pressure or back siphonage.

## Who is affected?

All commercial and industrial customers that have water service accounts from DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management (DWM). Commercial and multi-family customers are required to install backflow prevention assemblies on all potable service connections.

## Where does a backflow preventer need to be installed?

Backflow preventers must be installed on the customer's side of all water meters at the connection or before the first point of use. Inside installation needs DWM backflow prevention section's prior approval.

## How do I know if I have a backflow preventer or who do I contact to have a backflow preventer installed?

Any plumbing contractor who possesses a current Master Plumbing License from the State of Georgia can assess your plumbing to determine if you already have a backflow preventer installed. If not, they can assist you with any of your backflow prevention installation needs.

## How do I know what type of backflow preventer is needed for my type of business?

Backflow prevention is broken down into two categories: high hazard and low hazard. The type of assembly required for each type customer is in the following list. If your type of operation is not listed, please contact the program for assistance.

### Categories of Assemblies:

#### High Hazard

High hazard customers must install a Reduced Pressure Principle (RPP) assembly.

- Medical facilities
- Veterinary facilities
- Car washes
- Plating facilities
- Hair & nail salons
- Dry cleaning/ laundries
- Automotive repair
- Carpet and textile manufacturing
- Paper or paper product plants
- Coating operations
- Dyeing operations
- Industries utilizing hazardous chemicals
- Battery and automobile parts manufacturing
- Metal manufacturing: cleaning, processing or fabrication
- Oil and gas production: storage or transmission properties
- Irrigation systems
- Restaurants with carbonators

#### Low Hazard

Low hazard customers must install a Double Check Valve (DCV) assembly.

- Day care facilities
- Restaurants
- Printing shops
- Hotels w/o pool
- Motels w/o pools
- Dairies
- Bottling plants
- Schools w/o labs
- Churches w/o baptisms
- Manufacturing (if not listed under high hazard)
- Single and multi-storied commercial offices and retail outlet stores
- Apartments w/o pool and mobile home parks (when service connection serves more than 3 or more units)

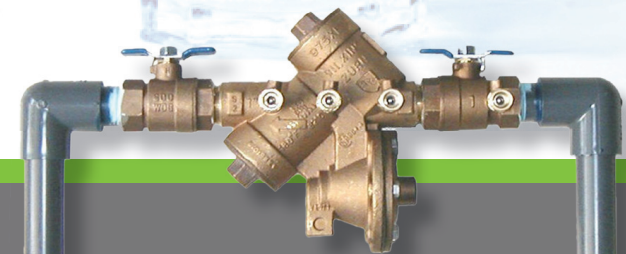
## What do I do after my backflow preventer is installed?

Maintain and annually test your backflow preventor. DWM does not maintain a list of approved testers (approved testers are licensed by the State or 3rd party organizations). However, a list of persons certified under the Georgia Statewide Backflow Prevention Assembly Certification Program (GBPAC) is maintained by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP), the State's authorized testing party, at <http://www.gawp.org/page/Backflow>. The page allows you to "Search Testers". If you do a general search, it will provide a listing of the current testers. Note that not every tester certified offers the service commercially.

Additional testing agencies accepted by the State, and through DeKalb County, are:

- American Society of Sanitary Engineers (ASSE),
- American Backflow Prevention Association (ABPA)
- University of Florida TREEO (Training, Research and Education for Environmental Occupations) Center

A good place to start is to contact your normal plumbing firm. They may offer this service or may have a certified tester they normally utilize.



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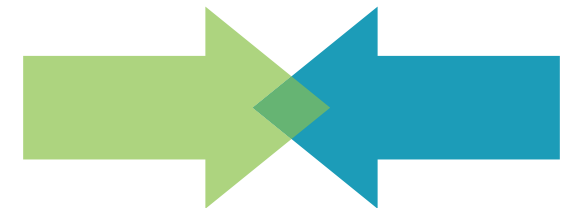
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