

Backflow Prevention Resources

Addressing backflow prevention requirements requires technical expertise and familiarity with state and local codes and regulations. It is recommended that you consult a professional with training in backflow prevention as you design your irrigation system. You will find these professionals listed in the telephone directory under plumbers, contractors or landscapers.

We are also available to assist you. Contact us at dekalbwatershed.com. The website includes:

- Contact information for Cross Connection Control Specialists
- Link to GAWPs list of testers
- Standard details for installation of backflow assemblies
- Frequently asked questions about backflow prevention
- Tips for protecting your backflow prevention assembly

DeKalb County
Department of Watershed Management
Regulatory Compliance Division

Backflow Prevention Section
4572 Memorial Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30032

For Appointments Please Call:
(404) 687-4075
7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

dekalbackflow@dekalbcountyga.gov



DeKalb County
GEORGIA

Department of
Watershed Management

Single Family Residential Irrigation Systems Backflow Requirements

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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RESIDENTIAL IRRIGATION SYSTEMS BACKFLOW PREVENTION REQUIREMENTS

Irrigation systems have the potential for contaminants or pollutants to be introduced into the potable water supply through submerged sprinkler heads, injectors, or aspirators. Therefore, sites with irrigation systems are required by the DeKalb County Ordinance and the Georgia Amendments to the International Plumbing Code to have backflow prevention assemblies installed to protect the public water supply. The Georgia Amendments to the International Plumbing Code requires all single family residential irrigation systems to have either a Reduced Pressure Principle (RPP), Double Check Valve (DCV), Pressure Vacuum Breaker (PVB) or Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker (AVB) installed on the irrigation system.

Single Family Irrigation Systems

Single family homes require backflow preventers if the property has an irrigation system which connects to the DeKalb County water supply regardless of whether it is through the home or an irrigation meter.

An RPP is required:

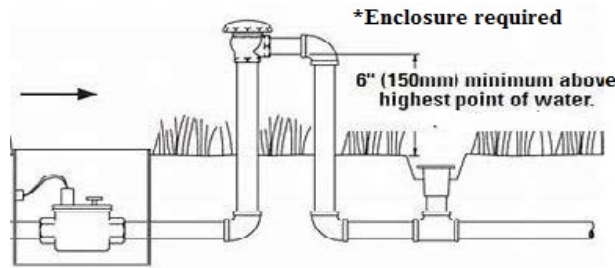
- The irrigation system is installed with a system/port for the injection of chemicals (e.g. pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, etc.) within the irrigation system.

The owner intends to use screw-on or temporarily added chemical addition systems.

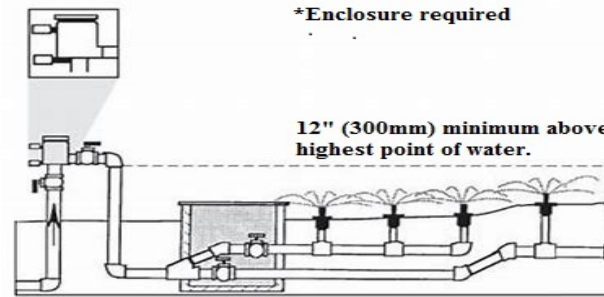
The plumbing systems has an auxiliary water connection (other than DeKalb County).

There are options!

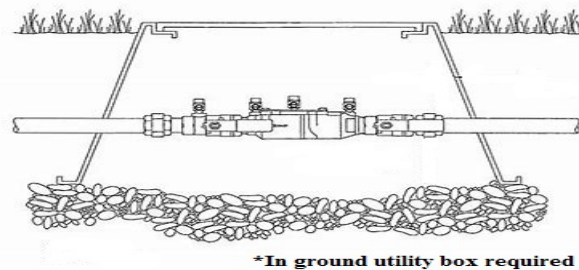
The following backflow preventers are allowed for single family residential irrigation systems but cannot be allowed with chemical feed systems or alternative water connection and require a completed **DeKalb County DWM Affidavit**.



Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker (AVB)

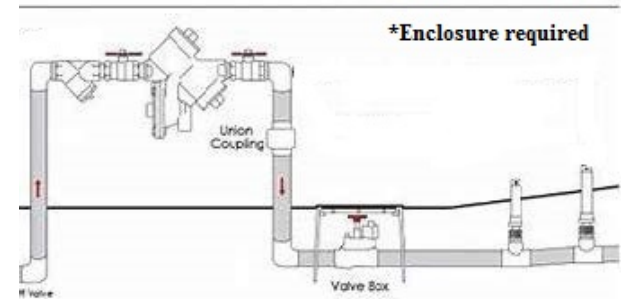


Pressure Vacuum Breaker (PVB)



Double Check Valve (DCV)

The RPP provides the highest level of irrigation supply protection and is DWM's recommendation. No affidavit is necessary!



Reduced Pressure Principle (RPP)

These assemblies protect the drinking water supply from contamination that may originate in the irrigation system.



NOTE: When a backflow preventer is installed on the potable water service, additional plumbing adjustments may be required to prevent thermal expansion damage to internal plumbing.