

## **BACKFLOW script**

### **What is backflow?**

Backflow is the flow of potentially contaminated water into the town's drinking water supply.

It can occur when water flows backwards or against its normal direction due to a change in water pressure.

Backflow can happen if:

- A property is using water at a higher pressure than the pressure in water main
- The water delivery main is at a lower pressure than a property's plumbing system
- If an alternate water supply is connected to a property's water supply system
- If a pump is connected to a property's internal water plumbing system

### **What is a backflow prevention device (BPD)?**

A backflow prevention device protects the community by preventing reverse flow of potentially contaminated water into the town's drinking water supply system.

You may have a BPD fitted on your property if you have:

- An irrigation system
- A fire hose reel or hydrant
- A commercial or industrial activity or machinery connected to the mains
- Water outlets in close proximity to pollutants, grease traps or chemicals
- An underground rainwater tank that has mains water backup
- A black or greywater dump point

### **Testing**

If you have a testable BPD on your property, you must have the device registered with Council and it will need to be tested each year by a private, fully licensed plumber.

Testable BPDs include reduced pressure zone, double check and some single check valves.

The plumber you engage to carry out the testing will need to have the correct licensing to test your BPD.

It is the responsibility of the plumber to send the test results to Council within 10 business days following testing.

Non-testable devices like dual check valves and some single check valves do not need to be tested.

Council has a responsibility under state government legislation to maintain a program for the registration, maintenance and testing of BPDs installed in the area.

An annual administration fee is charged per device which is used to maintain the register.

**Installing a new device**

The majority of new backflow prevention devices will require a plumbing application and an inspection by Council's plumbing inspectors.

It is the responsibility of the licensed plumbing contractor to submit a Form 4 to the Qld Building and Construction Commission and forward a copy of the completed Form 9 to Council.

For further information on backflow prevention devices, please contact Council on 1300 79 49 29.