

Backflow Prevention for Irrigation Systems

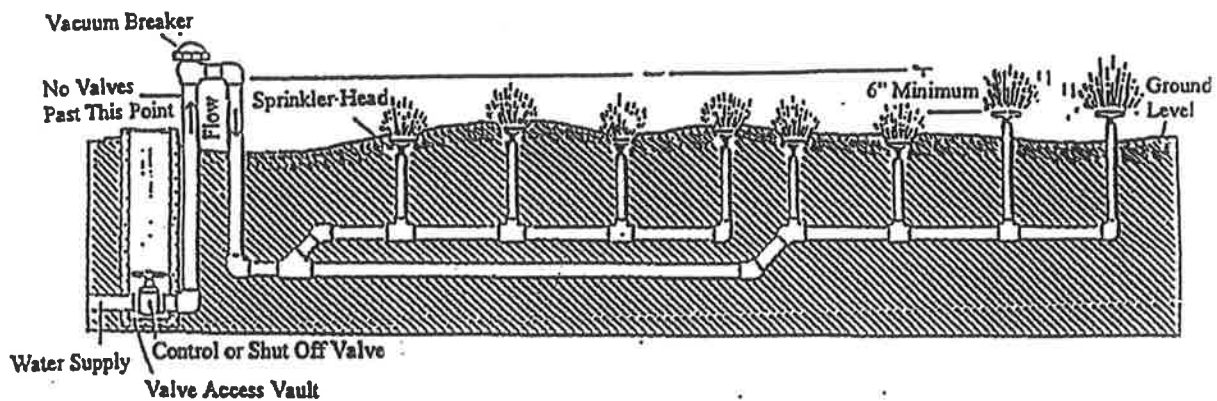
A permanently plumbed or seasonally plumbed lawn irrigation (sprinkler) system can be a hazard and must be protected because—

- Stagnant or contaminated water left in irrigation heads or pipes could be siphoned back into your home's plumbing or the water main should main pressure be lost while sprinklers are in operation.
- When chemicals are injected into sprinklers for fertilizing, injection pressures are often times great enough to go into the water main or your home's plumbing.
- Clackamas County plumbing code also requires that an irrigation system be separated from the potable (drinking) water supply.

The following diagrams show the four acceptable methods for protecting against backflow.

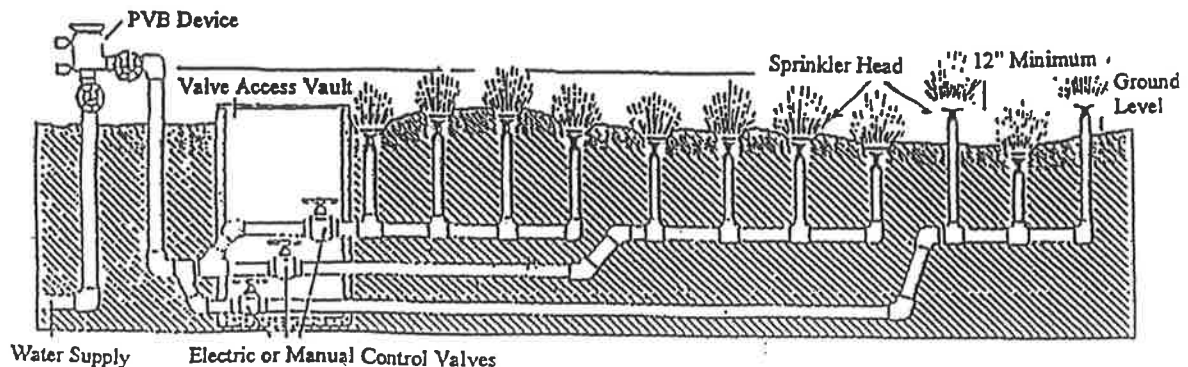
ATMOSPHERIC VACUUM BREAKER (AVB)

Atmospheric Vacuum Breakers are approved on irrigation systems provided **NO SHUT-OFF VALVES ARE DOWNSTREAM** of the device. The Vacuum Breaker must be a minimum of six inches (6") above the highest head to allow drainage. No chemicals can be injected or mixed into the system. No pressure source may exist on sprinkler side of device.



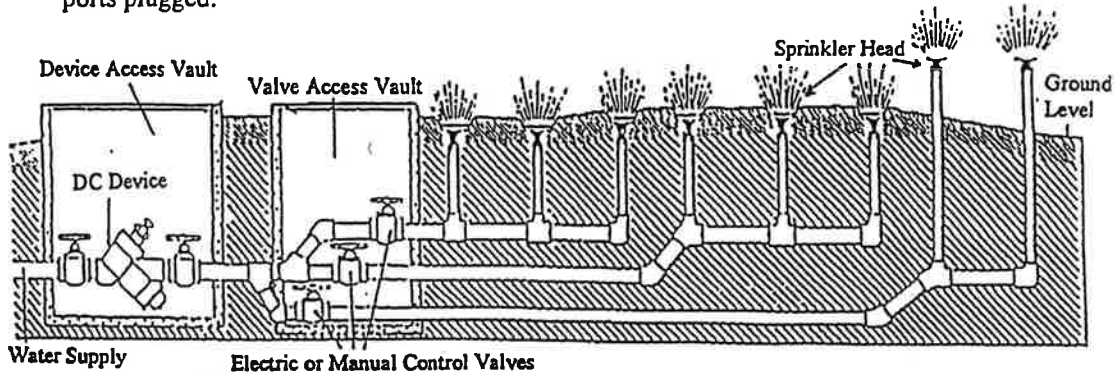
PRESSURE VACUUM BREAKER (PVB)

Pressure Vacuum Breakers are approved on irrigation systems with control valves downstream provided that the Vacuum Breaker is 12" inches above the highest head in each zone to allow free drainage. No chemicals can be injected or mixed into the system. The Pressure Vacuum Breaker must be tested by a state certified tester when installed, repaired, and a minimum of once per year. No pressure source may exist on sprinkler side of device.



DOUBLE CHECK BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLY (DC)

Double Check Backflow Prevention Assemblies are approved on irrigation systems provided no chemicals are injected or mixed into the system. This device must be tested by a state certified tester when installed, repaired, and a minimum of once per year. The DC device may be installed below ground but must have an access vault with a minimum of six inches (6") clearance on all sides (2" and smaller systems: for larger systems contact City for special details). Below ground installation are required to have all test ports plugged.



REDUCED PRESSURE BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLY (RP)

Reduced Pressure Backflow Prevention Assemblies are approved on any irrigation system. The device must be set a minimum of 12" above ground level or above flood level. The device must be tested by a state certified tester when installed, repaired, and a minimum of once per year.

