



Cut and Cap Policy for Discontinuing Landscape Irrigation

All landscape irrigation (sprinklers) must have State-approved backflow prevention installed in order to protect the public water system from potential contamination, as well as to comply with City ordinance and Plumbing code. If the type of backflow prevention is a testable assembly, such as a pressure vacuum breaker (PVB), double check valve (DC), or reduced pressure valve (RP), it must be tested by a State-certified backflow assembly tester at the time of installation, after repair or relocation, and at least once annually.

Some customers have expressed displeasure with the annual testing requirement for backflow prevention assemblies. There are two alternatives to conducting the annual test.

- 1) Replace a testable assembly with an atmospheric vacuum breaker (AVB). AVBs do not require annual testing, but there are restrictions for their use. There can be no shut-off valves downstream of the device. The AVB must be a minimum of six inches above the highest sprinkler head. No chemicals can be injected or mixed into the system, and no pressure source may exist on the sprinkler side of the device. For irrigation systems with multiple zones there would need to be one AVB per zone.
- 2) Discontinue use of the irrigation system.

Should an Oregon City water customer wish to discontinue use of an irrigation system the following steps can be taken:

- 1) Locate where the irrigation system is connected to the domestic water line to your home. This would be where a backflow preventer is installed, if there is appropriately installed backflow prevention.
- 2) ***Shut water off at the meter.** Expose the irrigation piping and create a three to four foot physical separation in the piping, rendering the irrigation system unusable. Remove any existing backflow preventer(s).
- 3) Cut and cap the supply side of the irrigation piping as close to the domestic line as possible. Leaving too much "dead-end" piping could create water quality issues. Cap the piping on the irrigation side to prevent it from filling with dirt, etc should the piping be used in the future.
- 4) ***Restore water after capping pipe ends.**
- 5) Prior to covering up the physical separation area, contact the Water Quality office at Oregon City Public Works (503.657.8241) to arrange a site visit. Water quality staff will verify and document the physical separation in the irrigation piping.

These steps are provided as general guidelines. For specific details please contact a licensed plumber or landscape professional.

*Contact the Oregon City Utility Billing office at 503.657.8151 to shut water off, or restore water service, at the water meter.