



Backflow Assembly Test Requirements Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why am I required to have my backflow assembly tested?

A: The City of Lewiston is required by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to conduct a Cross Connection Control program (IDAPA 58.01.08 subsection 552.06). The program will at a minimum include:

1. An inspection program to locate cross connections and determine required suitable protection.
2. Required installation and operation of adequate backflow prevention assemblies.
3. Annual inspections and testing of all installed backflow prevention assemblies by a tester licensed by a licensing authority recognized by the Department.
4. Discontinuance of service to any structure, facility, or premises where suitable backflow protection has not been provided for a cross connection.
5. Assemblies that cannot pass annual tests or those found to be defective shall be repaired, replaced, or isolated within ten (10) business days.

Q: Why should I have to pay for testing? Why not have the city pay for it?

A: The most efficient way to comply with annual testing requirements is to utilize local private testers, in order to avoid raising water rates and hiring additional staff.

Q: Why am I required to have my backflow assembly tested, but my neighbors are not?

A: The City of Lewiston is requiring annual testing of all *known* backflow assemblies in the water district. Surveys will be conducted over the next few years to identify all backflow hazards and add them to the database for future tracking of annual test requirements. (City Code Chapter 36-56 Cross Connections)