

LOCAL NEWS BRIEF

Cross Connection Control Notice: LAWN SPRINKLER WINTERIZATION

Geneva – The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) requires every water supplier to develop and implement a comprehensive cross connection control program for the elimination of existing cross connections and prevention or protection from all future cross connections on potable drinking water systems.

Backflow preventers may be found at any number of locations on your water systems. Typically, commercial & industrial customers will have backflow preventers just after the water meter and also on wet fire protection systems. They may also have lawn irrigation systems or other water connections throughout their facilities that require backflow protection.

Residential backflow preventers may be found on lawn irrigation systems, wet fire protection systems, hot water heating (boiler) systems, swimming pool fills, water features, etc. Backflow preventers may also be required if there is another water source on the site such as a well, pond, river, etc.

Note that lawn sprinkler systems will be getting winterized soon. If your backflow preventer is located outdoors, remember to remove and store it someplace warm for the winter. Allowing it to freeze is a costly mistake. Remember where you stored it, as you will need to give the backflow preventer to your lawn irrigation contractor or plumber next spring to re-install it. Illinois Plumbing Code requires that your backflow preventer be tested immediately upon re-installation of your backflow preventer every season. Annual tests must be performed by a certified tester and be submitted to the city's contractor of Aqua Backflow for compliance.

If you have or require backflow protection, you may be notified for compliance (testing, repairs, installations, inspections, or surveys) by Aqua Backflow, Geneva's backflow management firm. Questions can be directed to Aqua Backflow locally at 847-742-2296.

The Geneva Cross Connection Control Program is designed to safeguard public health. We ask for your cooperation with our program, its enforcement, and any requests for information that come from Aqua Backflow or Utility staff.