

## PROTECTION OF OUR DRINKING WATER SYSTEM DEPENDS ON YOU

Backflow prevention protects potable (drinkable) water from contamination by unsanitary and unsafe sources such as soap and chemical tanks, dispensing and injection systems; landscape irrigation systems, boiler systems, and pathogens from animal or human waste. Backflow prevention is accomplished by either:

- ✓ a 1" vertical air gap, separating the potable water outlet from the potential contamination source, or
- ✓ by installation of a hydro-mechanical plumbing device that stops backflow at the outlet.

The Minnesota State Plumbing Code requires testing of all “testable” backflow prevention devices installed after January 22, 2016. Testing must be done upon installation and annually thereafter. Backflow preventer testing is to be conducted by a Minnesota Certified Tester who must label the tested backflow preventer, providing date tested and certification number of tester.

### “Testable” Devices Primarily Include:

#### **Reduced Pressure Zone [RP or RPZ] Backflow Preventers**

*For most hazardous potable water connections and some irrigation systems (protection from chemicals, pathogens). All to be tested annually and rebuilt or replaced every five (5) years.*



#### **Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker [AVB] Backflow Preventers**

*Most common to landscape irrigation and other non-backpressure potable water connections. All to be tested annually.*



#### **Back Pressure Type (i.e. Watts 9D) [PVB] Backflow Preventers**

*Used for boiler connections and landscape irrigation systems where the highest outlet is higher than the backflow preventer. All to be tested annually.*



**Double Check Valve [DC]  
Backflow Preventers**

*Often installed on fire suppression systems and fire suppression standpipes. All to be tested annually.*



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**PRIOR TO INSTALLING A NEW HYDRO-MECHANICAL BACKFLOW PREVENTER:**

- ✓ A plumbing permit must be obtained from the City of Andover Building Department.
- ✓ The City of Andover Water Department must be notified within 30 days following the installation or removal of a hydro-mechanical backflow preventer on the City Water System,.

**TESTING RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- The owner of the backflow prevention device is responsible for making sure the backflow device is tested upon installation and at least annually thereafter.
- The backflow device tester is responsible for testing the backflow device and tagging it with the testing date, tester signature and backflow certification number.
- Written records of testing and maintenance must be maintained by the owner, and submitted to the City of City of Andover Water Department within 30 days following the test.

\*\* The testing requirements for testable non-RPZ devices became effective for installations made on or after January 23, 2016. Tester qualifications Testing of backflow prevention devices requires certification to ASSE Standard 5110. Testing of reduced pressure principal devices (RPZs) requires an additional certification by the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.

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**For additional information regarding protection of the potable water supply, please contact either the Andover Utilities Manager at 763-767-5180 or the Andover Building Department at 763-755-8700.**