

What you need to know about the Backflow Prevention Program

Backflow Prevention (BFP) Devices

Where are they required?

In the Town of Antigonish, backflow prevention devices are required on buildings where there is a greater potential for backflow and contamination to the water supply.

These include:

- Buildings with sprinkler lines
- Any buildings handling potential contaminants such as chemicals or organics
 - Dentists
 - Doctors Offices
 - Mortuaries
- Industrial, commercial, and institutional buildings
- Apartment buildings with more than four units
- Any services where there is a potential risk of contamination of the potable water supply system resulting from back flow or back pressure from the individual premise

Backflow Prevention Methods

The Town of Antigonish recognizes the following methods or types of backflow prevention devices used for the prevention of backflow:

- Air Gap (AG)
- Reduced Pressure Principle Assembly (RP)
- Double Check Valve Assembly (DCVA)

Selection Process

The type of BFP device is based on the ***degree of hazard*** that the building use represents to the drinking water supply. Backflow prevention devices must be specified out by a professional engineer or certified plumber, in accordance with the CSA B64.10 and CSA B64 series, to determine the degree of hazard.

Degrees of Hazard (from CSA B64 November 2011 Clause 3.1):

Minor Hazard (MH) – any type of cross-connection or potential cross-connection that involves a substance that constitutes only a nuisance and that results in a reduction in only the aesthetic qualities of water. This category includes all connections described in Clause 5.1.3.2. involving water that might have been heated or cooled and connections that cannot create a danger to health.

Moderate Hazard (MoH) – any minor hazard (MH) connection that has a low probability of becoming a severe hazard. This category includes, but is not limited to, connections involving water where the aesthetic qualities of the water have been reduced and, under certain conditions, can create a danger to health.

High or Severe Hazard (HH) – any type of cross-connection or potential cross-connection described in Clause 5.1.3.2. involving water that has additives or substances that, under any concentration, can create a danger to health.

CSA Standard	Type of Device	Minor Risk/Hazard (MH)	Moderate Risk/Hazard (MoH)	High Risk/Hazard (HH)	Device under Continuous Pressure
-	Air gap	X	X	X	No
B64	Reduced Pressure Principle Assembly (RP)	X	X	X	Yes
B64	Double Check Valve Assembly (DCVA)	X	X	-	Yes

Testing and Maintenance

It is the customer's responsibility to ensure that all backflow prevention devices are tested upon installation and annually thereafter. If the assembly fails its test, maintenance or repair is immediately required. The assembly must be retested immediately after any repairs, maintenance, or when the assembly has been removed, reinstalled or changed locations.

Backflow prevention assemblies must be annually tested, at minimum, because they have internal seals and springs that are subject to wear or fatigue.

At Your Annual Backflow Prevention Device Test

BFP testing must be carried out by a certified plumber with the certification of a Cross Connection Control Tester in accordance with the Atlantic Canada Water & Wastewater Association standard. A record card must be placed on or beside the BFP indicating:

- The test date
- The tester's name and the name of his/her employer
- The location, type, manufacturer, serial number, and size of the device
- The name and address of the owner of the device

A copy of annual BFP test results must be sent to the Town of Antigonish.

By Mail:

Engineering Department
C/O Backflow Prevention program
Town of Antigonish
274 Main St, Antigonish NS
B2G 2C4

By Email: dhalfpenny@townofantigonish.ca

The Town of Antigonish Water Utility Rules and Regulations specify that the Town may give notice to correct any non-compliance with the Cross Connection Control & Backflow Prevention section of the schedule. This includes the annual testing of BFPs. As a last resort in cases of non-compliance, the Town may suspend water services. We will always prefer to work with the property owner towards a solution, but backflow hazards will be taken seriously as they are potential risks to public health.