

Backflow Prevention Device and Annual Testing

What is a backflow prevention device? Backflow is the reversal of the normal flow of water. It's caused by pressure differences and can allow contaminants from an irrigation system, boiler, or other source to enter a home or building's plumbing system or the public water supply.

Backflow prevention devices protect plumbing systems and our public water supply by preventing backflow.

Who on Seabrook Island is required to have a backflow prevention device and have it tested?

All Seabrook Island property owner(s) who have an irrigation/lawn sprinkler systems and pools, whether absentee, current or new, resident or non-resident, commercial, regime managed properties, including the Seabrook Island Utility Commission & Commissioners, Town of Seabrook & Council Members, The Club & Board members, the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association, homes for sale or pending sale, lease to purchase and rental that have an irrigation/sprinkler and/or pool system are required to have a functioning/operating backflow prevention device(s) and have said device(s) tested annually.

Why do I have to have my backflow prevention device tested annually?

Backflow prevention assemblies have internal seals, springs, and moving parts that are susceptible to wear and failure. Annual testing ensures they are functioning properly and protecting our public water system.

Backflow Prevention Device Testing, R-44-55-20 & 44-55-40 (6) South Carolina State Safe Drinking Water Act, South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (SCDHEC) & Town of Seabrook Ordinance

Do Backflow Testers work for the Seabrook Island Utility Commission?

No, they are independent private contractors (landscapers, plumbers, etc.) who are licensed with the State of South Carolina to perform installations, repair, replacement and testing.

Can you recommend a Backflow Tester?

The Commission cannot provide a list of or recommend a licensed backflow prevention tester nor perform any installation, removal, repair, replacement or testing of these devices.

How long do I have to have my backflow prevention device tested?

You have sixty (60) days from the date noted on the annual notice to have your device tested and the completed form returned to the Commission office.

What happens if I do not have my backflow prevention device tested?

Owners and/or their assigns that fail to have their device tested and submit the completed passing form to the Commission office will have the water meter removed, which is the property of the Seabrook Island Utility

Commission, which services their property removed until the testing is completed and the completed passing form has been submitted to our office.

What do I do with my backflow device if I no longer need it?

A certified tester will need to remove the device and cap off the pipe for irrigation/lawn sprinkler system or pool to prevent further use. The tester will also submit a completed test form noting the removal and capping has taken place.