

# Backflow Prevention Requirements for Liquid Trade Waste Dischargers

Backflo

Backflow prevention containment is consistent with the aims of the Plumbing Code of Australia, National Plumbing and Drainage Code AS/NZS 3500:1. Local Government Act 1993; Section 124 Order 5 (h), the Public Health Act 2010, and Lithgow Council's Backflow Prevention – Containment Policy 3.4.

## How Can Backflow Occur

Backflow prevention containment applies to all Lithgow City Council's Liquid Trade Waste discharges connected to Lithgow City Council potable water supply. The purpose of backflow prevention is to protect the water supply from contamination by liquid from customers premises connected to the reticulated supply. This can occur when contaminated liquid flows back through connections to the water supply system.



Backflow preventer

## Why do I need to install a backflow prevention containment device?

A hose connected to a tap submerged in an Oil Water Collection Pit or Grease Arrestor has the potential to contaminate the drinking water supply, resulting in serious illness or death.

Backflow is the reverse flow of liquids and can be caused by:

- Back siphonage – where the pressure in the reticulation system becomes less than atmospheric; this causes water from connected properties to flow backwards into the potable water supply,
- Back pressure – when the consumer's water pressure is greater than the pressure in the potable water supply,
- Cross-Connection – is a direct or indirect physical connection of a potable water supply to a line that is non-potable, e.g. Council water supply to a non-potable bore.

For more information please contact Lithgow City Council

02 6354 9999

[www.council.lithgow.com](http://www.council.lithgow.com)



### **What are my backflow prevention requirements?**

Council recommend you engage a licensed plumber with backflow prevention accreditation. An accredited plumber can determine the hazard rating of your process, the type of device required, install, commission and test the device. Using one plumber may help reduce your costs. A list of backflow accredited plumbers is available by contacting Council's Liquid Trade Waste Officer or from Council's website <http://council.lithgow.com/liquid-trade-waste/>

In order to prevent contaminating the drinking water supply, all property owners must:

- Ensure an appropriate backflow prevention containment device is fitted to all water supplies entering the property regardless of the supply type or metering arrangements,
- Arrange for annual testing of the device,
- Ensure boundary containment will have equal to or higher rated protection than any individual or zone requirement.

Under Section 626 (3) of the Local Government Act, 1993; it is an offence if the property owner fails to install, repair, maintain, replace or test the backflow prevention device in accordance with AS 3500:1. In these instances, Council may issue a Penalty Notice (\$330) or issue an Order under Section 124 of the Local Government Act, for carrying out an activity otherwise than in accordance with the terms of that approval.

### **What will your plumber do?**

Your backflow prevention accredited plumber will:

- Submit a Notice of Works Form to Council prior to the installation of the backflow prevention devices, allowing Council to assess that the correct valve is being installed,
- Install the appropriate device(s) on the hose tap within 18 metres of the pre-treatment device to protect the reticulated water supply and allow safe cleaning of the pre-treatment device,
- The plumber must send the completed Backflow Prevention Device Inspection and Maintenance Report to Lithgow Council within two days of testing the device,
- The plumber should also provide the liquid trade waste discharger with a copy of the Backflow Prevention Device Inspection and Maintenance Report for their records.

### **Yearly Testing**

Customers who have testable backflow prevention containment device, zone and individual device(s) installed must have the device tested every 12 months by a licensed plumber with backflow accreditation:

- The backflow prevention containment device needs to be tested by a backflow accredited plumber,
- Annual testing will not comply with Lithgow City Council's requirements until the report has been received and reviewed by Council.

A defective device can:

- Cause a backflow incident
- Allow water to escape through leaking devices
- Reduce water pressure to your property

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