

Backflow Prevention Information for Plumbers



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.

It is important that plumbers understand their responsibility to assist customers to comply with Council's backflow prevention requirements. The following information provides key information about installing a backflow prevention containment device.

Before installing a device

- Determine which device should be installed by using the hazard rating of a process (refer to AS/NZS 3500.1: Table 4.1 Plumbing and Drainage Part 1-Water Services). For example, a high hazard rating will require a reduced pressure zone device,
- You must submit a Notice of Works form to Council prior to the installation of backflow prevention devices, this will allow Council to assess that the correct valve is being installed,
- You must check the available water pressure, the customer's water pressure and flow requirements.

When installing a device you must:

- Install all backflow prevention device(s) in accordance with the AS/NZS 3500:1, which provides detailed installation guidelines.
- Have all backflow prevention device(s) installed by a licensed plumber.
- Have all backflow prevention device(s) commissioned and tested by a licensed plumber with backflow prevention accreditation.
- Install a reduced pressure zone device 300 mm above the ground surface to prevent vegetation from blocking the drain and to allow for testing.
- Not locate testable devices in pits or below ground level as the pit may fill with water and cause a backflow incident.

For more information please
contact Lithgow City Council

02 6354 9999

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When installing a device you must (cont):

- Provide frost protection for valves exposed i.e. sheet metal covers or thermostatic freeze valves
- Security of valves via wire cages, testable valves to have concrete plinth located beneath in non concrete areas
- Advise the customer on the individual and zone protection requirements for their property.

Fire Services

Installations of testable double check valve assemblies are to be fitted separately to hydrant and sprinkler fire services with bypass meters, strainers are not required. On separate hydrant and fire service at non-residential properties, the device shall be installed close to where the service crosses the property boundary prior to any booster assembly. It should be noted that backflow prevention devices reduce pressure and shall be considered in the design process of fire services.

Documentation

If you are installing and testing the device, you must supply Council with both of the following documents:

- Backflow Prevention Accredited plumbers must register with Lithgow City Council by providing a copy of the relevant Backflow Prevention Accreditation Certificate. Council recommends all liquid trade waste discharges engage backflow prevention accredited plumbers and will provide all liquid trade waste discharges with a list of registered backflow accredited plumbers within the LGA.
- Backflow Prevention Device Inspection and Maintenance Report must be provided to Council for each device fitted; on installation & annually. Only a licensed plumber with a Backflow Accreditation can commission and test a testable backflow prevention device.

Accreditation

Backflow Prevention accreditation is required to ensure Plumbers have the skills and knowledge to test and maintain backflow prevention as requested by Water Authorities.

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