

# Safe Drinking Water Program

City of Redmond Public Works Department - 243 E. Antler Ave. #100 - Redmond, OR 97756 - (541) 504-2000

## COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**1. Why is a backflow assembly needed?** A backflow assembly protects against the occurrence of backflow incidents, thereby helping to maintain safe drinking water.

**2. Who is responsible for the cost of installation, testing and repair?** The owner of the assembly is responsible for the costs to install, test, and maintain the assembly in proper working order.

**3. Who can install a backflow assembly?** The property owner or employee of the property owner, a licensed plumber, or a landscape contractor with the proper license.

**4. Is a City permit required?** No permit is required to install a backflow assembly, but anytime plumbing work is being done a plumbing permit is required.

**5. Where can I buy an assembly and how much do they cost?** Local plumbing supply stores, hardware stores, and irrigation supply stores sell assemblies and establish the cost. The consumer should compare costs.

**6. Are there special installation requirements?** Yes, each assembly has its own unique installation requirements, depending upon the manufacturer. All backflow assembly installations must comply with standards set by the City of Redmond Ordinance.

**7. Will installation of a backflow assembly affect my water pressure?** Yes, all assemblies create some pressure loss. The loss can vary from very minimal to significant. Consult with the manufacturer or sales representative for information about pressure loss.

**8. What do I need to know about maintenance?** The assembly needs to be protected from freezing (the Public Works Water Dept. Can provide details on how to protect your backflow assembly). Internal maintenance is done by the tester.

**9. How often should I expect my assembly to fail, or how long will it last?** Most assemblies come with a one-year warranty. The most common reason for failure is debris in the assembly. Maintenance and longevity depend on environment, water quality, and pressure surges.

**10. How often do backflow assemblies need to be tested?** All assemblies must be tested at least once a year; also, whenever they are repaired or moved. High hazard assemblies may require testing twice per year.

**11. Who can test assemblies?** A person who has received adequate training and is certified by the Oregon State Health Division.

**12. How much does a test cost?** The cost for testing assemblies is established by the certified tester. The assembly owner should compare charges with more than one tester.

**13. What will happen if I don't have my assembly tested?** The City Ordinance requires water service termination for failure to comply with cross connection control rules, including testing and maintenance of assemblies.