

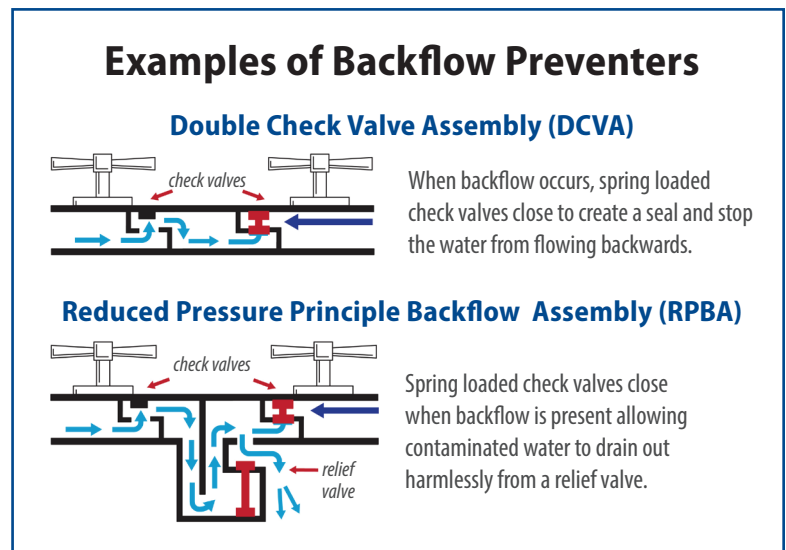
# Frequently Asked Questions Backflow Assembly Testing

## What is backflow?

The water provided by the District meets all primary drinking water standards, but once water is delivered through a customer's meter it is important to prevent water from flowing back into the system. This can occur when irrigation systems, pools, water softeners or even leaks create back pressure or back-siphonage issues, which is why a backflow assembly device is often required to be installed when permitted changes are made to your property.

## What is a backflow assembly device?

A backflow assembly device is typically installed on the pipe as close as practical to the meter to prevent backflow from any irrigation device, water softener or an additional dwelling unit (ADU). These devices ensure that water does not flow back across the meter into the protected distribution system. In order for the District to ensure the backflow assembly is operating properly customers for whom a device is required must have the device tested by a certified tester and submit the results to the District annually.



## How do I find a certified tester?

The State of California allows what is known as self-certification, allowing customers to select a certified tester to perform the test and submit the results. The District provides a list of certified testers at [www.GoletaWater.com/backflow](http://www.GoletaWater.com/backflow).

## Why am I required to have a backflow assembly device?

New construction, the addition of an irrigation system, pool, water softener or ADU can all result in an account being required to install a backflow assembly device. This regulation has been in place since 1987, so some but not all homes and businesses have these devices. Over time, the number of backflow assembly devices will increase as improvements and renovations are made to older properties.

## How many people are required to perform assembly testing every year?

Approximately 20% of the District's 17,000 accounts are required to submit backflow assembly testing certification annually.

For more information visit [www.GoletaWater.com/backflow](http://www.GoletaWater.com/backflow)

