

Fact Sheet

Water Supply- Backflow Prevention

Backflow prevention devices are required to prevent cross contamination of water supplies, and are enforced through;

- The Building Act 2004
- The Health Act 1956
- The Health (Drinking Water) Amendment Act 2007.

The Health (Drinking Water) Amendment Act 2007 authorizes council's (Tauranga City Council) to enforce backflow prevention at the boundary whether the hazard is new or historic.

Backflow can occur if the council network supply experiences a low-pressure incident. There are several possible scenarios that could cause this;

- Mains break
- Malfunction pressure control valve
- Fire service drawing water from the network nearby to fight a fire.

Additionally, if there is higher water pressure on the property side of the connection, this would cause the water to reverse flow and then potentially contaminated water would flow into the network and into other users' connections causing water quality issues.

- On-site pumped system (ie: bore pump, wastewater pump, water blaster)
- Furnace or burner.

The property owner must pay for the supply and installation of the device and then vest it to council. A pre-approved council contractor must install the backflow device. Tauranga City Council will there after annually test the device to ensure it is functioning as designed, maintain the device as required and ultimately replace the device at the end of its life.

The Building Act defines the levels of risk caused by cross connection. Under the Building Act; Acceptable Solution G12/AS1 outlines the three levels of risk and the appropriate device to protect against this risk. The three levels are

Cross Connection Risk Level	Appropriate boundary device to protect water network accepted by TCC
LOW	Dual Check
MEDIUM	Testable Double Check
HIGH	Reduced Pressure Zone

Tauranga City Council's policy is to install water meter manifolds combined with dual check valves on every household water supply connection, which are low risk protection devices.

Domestic residential properties:

Common risks that will require a higher level of backflow protection are (but not limited to);

Potential Hazard	Risk Level	Boundary Device Required
Swimming Pool	Medium	Testable Double Check
In ground irrigation system	Medium	Testable Double Check
Hairdressing Salon	High	Reduced Pressure Zone
OSET wastewater system	High	Reduced Pressure Zone
Home-based Mortuary	High	Reduced Pressure Zone

Commercial/Industrial properties:

Tauranga City Council's policy is to install Reduced Pressure Zone devices on every commercial/industrial water supply connection, which are high risk protection devices. Tauranga City Council has taken this approach