

In-Ground Irrigation System Backflow Device Requirements Concord, MA

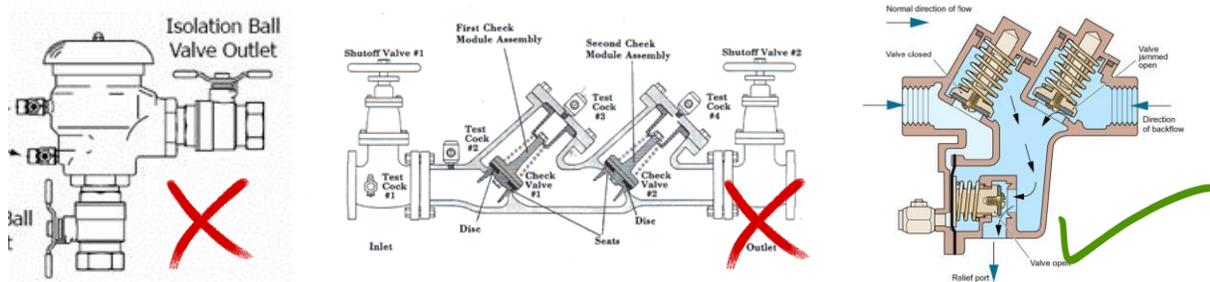
Since 2002, the Town of Concord's Rules and Regulations Governing Water Use and Connection require all in-ground irrigation systems to install a Reduced Pressure Zone Assembly (RPZ) backflow device to prevent unsafe water from your irrigation system pipes from being pulled back into your household/business plumbing or even all the way into the water distribution system's network of pipes.

Plumbers unfamiliar with Concord's Rules and Regulations sometimes install what is called a Pressure Vacuum Breaker (PVB) because that is the minimum protection required by Massachusetts Plumbing Code. A PVB or a Double Check Valve Assembly is not a compliant backflow device for in-ground irrigation systems connected to the Concord Water system.

Why does Concord Require a Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ) Assembly?

RPZ's are required to be used on all irrigation systems which may be subject to back-pressure or back-siphonage. Back-pressure or back-siphonage may occur when there is a water main break, water main flushing or other water distribution system activity. Fertilizers, chemicals and other potential contaminants can come in contact with the distribution system creating a potential health hazard. RPZ backflow preventers are the best line of protection against a high hazard system when an adequate air gap cannot be achieved.

RPZ's are also a testable unit. This means each year when you start up your irrigation system you can request that your device is tested. This will ensure that your drinking water is safe and protected from potential contamination.



Does the Town need to approve my Backflow Device?

Yes, please have your plumber/irrigation service provider submit a Cross Connection Design Data Sheet BEFORE installation to prevent having to replace the non-compliant device. Visit www.concordma.gov/water for links to the Application & Forms.

If you have questions about which device should be installed or what forms need to be complete, please call the Water and Sewer Division Office at 978-318-3250.