

January 20, 2021

Re: Residential Sprinkler Meters

Dear Customer,

We wanted to update you on the questions that our customers have had with regards to having a backflow device on a sprinkler meter.

- ✓ If you are a customer that is already on a backflow testing schedule this letter does not apply to you.
- ✓ TDEC (Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation) is requiring all residential customers to have a backflow device installed on the sprinkler meter and it will have to be tested annually.
- ✓ If you already have a device on your sprinkler meter and it is installed underground, you will be grandfathered in as long as the device passes inspection each year. Once it fails the backflow test the device will have to be brought up to code and installed above ground.
- ✓ If you do not use your sprinkler meter and would like for it to be made inactive you may pay Eastside 15.00 to have the meter turned off and locked. If you decided to use the sprinkler meter a backflow will have to be installed or tested before the meter is turned back on for use.
- ✓ We also have some links on our home page of rules and regulations from TDEC and backflow devices that are approved to be used on sprinkler systems. A certified plumber in backflow devices will know the new rules and regulations.
- ✓ Eastside Utility does not install these devices and does not maintain them.
- ✓ If you are leasing property and use a sprinkler system, please forward this letter to your Landlord.
- ✓ Testing results should be e-mailed to backflow@eastsideutility.com

Please remember that all backflows will need to be installed and tested by June 1, 2021. We know there has been some confusion, and this is new to our customers, but we are here to help guide you through the process. We hope this new information helps with the backflow testing and installation. Please give us a call with any additional questions at 423-892-2890.



What is Cross-Connection and why is a Backflow Preventer necessary?

Cross-Connection Terms and Definitions

- **Cross-Connection:** Means any physical arrangement whereby a public water supply is connected, directly or indirectly, with any other water supply system, sewer, drain, conduit, pool, storage reservoir, plumbing fixture or other device which contains, or may contain, contaminated water, sewage or other waste or liquid of unknown or unsafe quality which may be capable of imparting contamination to the public water supply as a result of **backflow**. Bypass arrangements, jumper connections, removable sections, swivel or change-over devices through which, or because of which, **backflow** could occur are considered to be cross-connections.
- **Backflow:** The flow of water or other liquids, mixtures, or substances into the distributing pipes of a potable supply of water from any source or sources other than its intended source. Backsiphonage is one type of backflow.
- **Backpressure:** Backflow that occurs when the pressure in an unprotected downstream piping system exceeds the pressure in the supply line.
- **Backsiphonage:** Resulting from negative pressures in the distributing pipes of a potable water supply.
- **Backflow Preventer:** Backflow Preventers are mechanical plumbing devices installed in a plumbing system to prevent water from flowing backward in the system. A properly installed, tested and maintained backflow preventer at the service entrance to a building or property can reliably prevent the backflow of water of an unknown quality from flowing back into the community water system.

Is It Really Important To Prevent Backflow?

The Tennessee Department of Health and Environment under section 68-13-701 through 68-13-719, requires all public water systems in the state to operate an on-going program to protect the public water supply from contamination and possible cross-connections. The most effective method for the water utility to meet this requirement is to require customers to install a backflow preventer on the main supply line to their property or facility, thus protecting the community water system from any cross connections that may be present inside a customer's plumbing system. All water users benefit from an active, on-going

Roster of Certified Backflow Device Inspectors

AAA Backflow Test	Metro Lawn Care	Best Plumbing Co.
AAABackflowtest.com	3737 Pilot Point	4231 Bonny Oaks Drive
Slerra Williams	423-894-9896	Chattanooga, TN 37416
423-505-8566		423-624-1620
International Fire Protection	Flow Safe	Keefe plumbing Company
5740 Highway 58	Ron Tawater	1820 E. 23rd St.
Harrison, TN 37341	423-902-9797	Chattanooga, TN 37404
423-326-3367	423-870-4517	423-622-3178
C & M Plumbing	Chase Plumbing & Mechanical	B Safe, LLC
6520 Sam Smith Road	7915 Sue Drive	Mark Goff
Birchwood, TN 37305	Ooltewah, TN. 37363	423-400-6914
423-961-2910	423-899-7899	
Cripple Creek Construction	Billy & Sons Plumbing	Hardin Mechanical
Freddie Vaughn	513 White Road	Joew Hardiin
423-322-2148	423-855-7945	302 Osborne Drive
706-931-2287		423-510-1481
Coddington Enterprices	Harvey's Plumbing Co.	Duke Hicks Plumbing
Chuck Coddington	8232 Oxford Drive	4129 Cromwell Road
6374 Fairview Road	Hixson, TN 37343	Chattanooga, TN 37421
423-847-9964	423-842-0998	423-894-5225
East Brainerd Plumbing Co.	Mckenney's, Inc.	The W.G. Ruffner Co.
8133 E. Brainerd Road	3911 Volunteer Drive	9310 E. Brainerd Rd.
Chattanooga, TN 37421	Chattanooga, TN 37416	Chattanooga, TN 37421
423-892-0232	423-510-1380	423-499-1947
Machining & Specialty Serv.	Waterworks Plumbing	H & N Plumbing Company
#1 Bryson Circle	3206 Idlewild Circle	P.O. BOX 71959
Ringgold, Ga. 30706	Chattanooga, TN 37421	Chattanooga, TN 37407
706-965-5767	423-892-0232	423-965-7129
Certified Backflow Testing	Basic Backflow	T.S. Raulston Co., Inc.
2417 Sunset Strip	Jesse Keown	2000 Holtzclaw Ave.
Hixson, TN 37343	423-619-1684	Chattanooga, TN 37404
423-718-7066		423-698-8676
Backflow Devices Testing	Southeast Company, Inc.	Stanford Plumbing.
13 Cherry Street	4000 7th Avenue	5519 Hixson Pike
Ringgold, Ga 30736	Chattanooga, TN 37407	Hixson, TN 37343
866-606-9775	423-867-2290	423-877-0767

This list is for reference only. The testers shown are not the only available backflow device testers.

It is your responsibility to be sure the test is performed by a certified Backflow Device Inspector.