

Almost every bathtub and sink are equipped with the best known back-flow prevention device—an air gap, the space between the highest water level in the fixture and the outlet of the water from the faucet.

To keep your drinking water safe, the Village of Richmond diligently checks the plans for each new business and residence for compliance with cross connection and backflow requirements.

PERMIT REQUIRED

A permit is required for installation of an underground lawn irrigation system. The permit can be found on the Village of Richmond website www.richmond-il.com. Please call 815-678-4040 for additional information.



Backflows due to cross connection can cause sickness or even death. Even in your own home you can unwittingly create a cross connection by:

- ◇ Putting a garden hose in a swimming pool to fill it
- ◇ Putting a garden hose in a pet's water bucket to fill it, or the fish tank
- ◇ Putting the garden hose down the drain to flush out debris when it's backed up
- ◇ Connecting your garden hose to a plant fertilizer or bug spray unit

The Village protects the water entering your system. However, it is your responsibility to protect the water on your property or in your home. For more information on backflow prevention, please contact Building and Zoning at 815-678-4040.



Village of
Richmond

BACKFLOW PREVENTION

Help Yourself-Your Neighbor
This brochure is intended as a
guide outlining basic information
for Backflow Prevention in the
Village of Richmond



Being a Good Neighbor

Building and Zoning
Village of Richmond
5600 Hunter Drive
Richmond, IL 60071
815-678-4040
richmond@richmond-il.com



Every day, the Village of Richmond proudly supplies an average of 200,000 gallons of water to its residents; water that exceeds the minimum quality requirements of the EPA. Before the water is pumped to your home or business, it goes through careful treatment and numerous tests to ensure its quality.

Congress established the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1974 to protect human health from contaminants in drinking water and to prevent contamination of existing groundwater supplies. This act and amendments require many actions to protect drinking water and its sources. One of these actions is the installation and maintenance of an approved backflow prevention assembly at the water service connection whenever a potential hazard is determined to exist in a customer's system. Without proper protection devices, cross connections can occur. A cross connection between your drinking water and another source of water that combines the two can result in a backflow condition which can cause contamination. Backflow is when the water in your pipes (the pipes after the water meter) goes backward (the opposite direction from the normal flow).

Village ordinance and State regulation require residents with lawn sprinkler systems to install a backflow prevention device, known as an RPZ valve, at their homes.

Installation of such devices helps protect the public water supply from contaminants or pollutants that could backflow through service connections into the public water supply.

RPZ valves must be installed by a licensed plumber and be certified by a plumber with an IEPA Cross-Connection Device Inspector Certification (CCDI) on an annual basis./

In addition to single family homes with lawn irrigation systems, many businesses, apartment buildings, offices and other establishments are also required to install backflow prevention devices.



The following are some conditions where contaminants and plumbing hazards might occur:

- ⇒ *Underground Lawn Irrigation Systems*
- ⇒ *Swimming Pools or Hot Tubs*
- ⇒ *Photo, Chemical, Medical or other Lab facilities*
- ⇒ *Private wells and Secondary Water Service Lines*
- ⇒ *Lawn and Garden Chemical Sprayers attached to hoses*

Other potential cross connections are: boilers, fire protection systems, solar heating, car washes, decorative ponds and soaking tubs in laundry areas, in home water treatment systems.