

Safe Drinking Water Program

City of Florence Public Works Department 989 Spruce Street Florence, Oregon 97439

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why is a backflow assembly needed? A backflow assembly protects against the occurrence of backflow incidents, thereby helping to maintain safe drinking water,

2. Who is responsible for the cost of installation, testing and repair? The owner of the assembly is responsible for the costs to install, test, and maintain the assembly in proper working order.

3. Who can install a backflow assembly? The property owner or employee of the property owner, a licensed plumber, or a landscape contractor with the proper license.

4. Is a City permit required? No permit is required to install a backflow assembly, but anytime plumbing work is being done a plumbing permit is required.

5. Where can I buy an assembly and how much do they cost? Local plumbing supply stores, hardware stores, and irrigation supply stores sell assemblies and establish the cost. The consumer should compare costs.

6. Are there special installation requirements? Yes, each assembly has its own unique installation requirements, depending upon the manufacturer. All backflow assembly installations must comply with standards set by the City of Redmond Ordinance.

7. Will installation of a backflow assembly affect my water pressure? Yes, all assemblies create some pressure loss. The loss can vary from very minimal to significant. Consult with the manufacturer or sales representative for information about pressure loss,

8. What do I need to know about maintenance? The assembly needs to be protected from freezing (the Public Works Water Dept. Can provide details on how to protect your backflow assembly). Internal maintenance is done by the tester.

9. How often should I expect my assembly to fail, or how long will it last? Most assemblies come with a one-year warranty. The most common reason for failure is debris in the assembly. Maintenance and longevity depend on environment, water quality, and pressure surges.

10. How often do backflow assemblies need to be tested? All assemblies must be tested at least once a year; also, whenever they are repaired or moved. High hazard assemblies may require testing twice per year.

11. Who can test assemblies? A person who has received adequate training and is certified by the Oregon State Health Division.

12. How much does a test cost? The cost for testing assemblies is established by the certified tester. The assembly owner should compare charges with more than one tester.

13. What will happen if I don't have my assembly tested? The City Ordinance requires water service termination for failure to comply with cross connection control rules, including testing and maintenance of assemblies.