

# Incentive Program

At Skagit PUD, we understand that installing a backflow prevention assembly can be an unforeseen project expense. To help with costs, Skagit PUD now offers a **Cross-Connection Control Incentive Program** that provides eligible customers with financial assistance when backflow prevention assemblies are installed voluntarily at an existing water service.

## How to Apply

The incentive program's application process is as simple as making a phone call. Skagit PUD considers applications on a first-come, first-served basis. A lump-sum reimbursement is provided upon successful installation, testing, and submittal of required cost documentation.



Existing customers that require cross-connection control for premises isolation—Double Check Valve Assembly (DCVA) or Reduced Pressure Backflow Assembly (RPBA)—are eligible for the program unless the following apply:

- Customer is applying for or currently approved for the agricultural water rate.
- Customer is requesting to upsize an existing water service.
- Customer has premises requiring new backflow protection for more than the initial 90-day installation period.

Customers must supply a conceptual design or sketch of the proposed backflow preventer installation with the application.

To apply, contact:

**Courtney Shilling**

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For more information,  
please contact:

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**Skagit  
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PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

1415 Freeway Drive  
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**Skagit  
PUD**  
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

**Lawn  
Irrigation  
Systems**

**CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL**

[www.SkagitPUD.org](http://www.SkagitPUD.org)

# What is Backflow?

Anytime your drinking water supply has an opportunity to come in contact with a harmful substance, a **cross-connection** exists. For example, attaching a fertilizer sprayer to a garden hose or even placing your hose in a soap bucket for car washing creates a cross-connection and possible health hazards.

Cross-connections can lead to contamination when an unforeseen change in pressure allows the water to flow backwards within the water supply piping. This reversal of flow, called **backflow**, can allow contaminated water to flow backward, drawing a contaminant into the water supply.

Under normal circumstances Skagit PUD's water supply is pressurized to keep water flowing to your tap, however, unforeseen circumstances (such as a water main break or the need to fight a fire) can suddenly change the pressure in the supply piping, allowing the water to siphon back from a contaminated source to a drinking water supply.

## What are Backflow Preventers?

Backflow prevention assemblies are mechanical devices installed on water service lines (or at plumbing fixtures) to prevent backflow of contaminants into drinking water through cross-connections. For a backflow preventer to provide adequate protection, it must be proportionate with the degree of hazard, installed correctly, tested annually and repaired as necessary.



## What You Should Know When Installing an Irrigation System

The most common hazard leading to a backflow incident at a residence is through an underground irrigation system.

All irrigation systems are required to have an approved backflow prevention assembly equal to the degree of hazard to protect the water in Skagit PUD's distribution system. Irrigation systems are categorized as a high health hazard or moderate health hazard as defined below:

(1) Any irrigation system that contains pumps or injectors for the addition of chemicals and/or fertilizers is considered a high hazard. This risk assessment is also based on the additional hazard posed by bacterial contaminants found on lawns and the possibility of changes to the customer's irrigation system. An approved reduced pressure backflow assembly (RPBA), or an air gap separation, are required in all cases where chemicals or herbicides may be injected into the irrigation system or where an auxiliary water supply is also provided for irrigation water.

(2) All irrigation systems that are not classified as a high health hazard are considered moderate health hazards. This risk assessment is based on the danger posed by bacterial and chemical contaminants found on lawns and the possibility of changes to the customer's irrigation system. An approved double check valve assembly (DCVA) is required.



## Double Check Valve Assembly (DCVA) for Isolation of Lawn Irrigation System

- The DCVA may be installed to isolate all irrigation systems that do not use injectors or pumps to apply fertilizer and other agricultural chemicals.
- The DCVA may be installed in a below-ground enclosure provided the assembly test cocks are plugged, the test cocks are pointed up, adequate space is provided for maintenance and testing, and any compressed air connections are installed only downstream of the DCVA.
- A certified backflow assembly tester should test the DCVA upon installation, repair, or relocation, and at least annually.



*DCVA in a below-ground enclosure.*

## Reduced Pressure Backflow Assembly (RPBA) for Isolation of Lawn Irrigation System

- The RPBA should be installed to isolate irrigation systems using injectors or pumps to apply fertilizer and other agricultural chemicals.
- The RPBA must be installed above ground to prevent the relief valve opening from becoming submerged.
- The RPBA should be installed in an insulated enclosure to provide freeze protection.
- A certified backflow assembly tester should test the RPBA upon installation, repair, or relocation, and at least annually.