How do I insulate my Backflow Assembly?

There are several different ways to insulate your Backflow Assembly to keep it from freezing in the winter months. We recommend using insulated pouches or box covers.

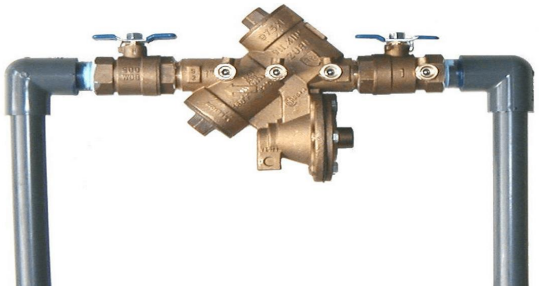
Can I just wrap my device with tape, foam or insulation?

If you are going to insulate your backflow assembly using tape, foam or some type of insulation, please make sure the hole on the bottom of the backflow assembly (the relief valve) is not obstructed. The reasoning is because if you have a backflow incident, it needs to be able to dump the contaminated water onto the ground to avoid contamination to the main water supply system. The two shut off valves and the four test valves need to be accessible as well. If you wrap it up, it defeats the purpose of the backflow assembly and is out of compliance. Also, testers will have to cut the insulation to properly test it.

It is suggested to insulate your backflow assembly using an insulated pouch or box as shown below.

Need more information?

Questions concerning backflow prevention and cross-connection control may be directed to the HNWS Backflow Program.



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Backflow & Cross-Connection

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What is a Backflow Prevention Assembly?

A Backflow Prevention Assembly is an approved device, which uses check valves within the device to prevent contamination of the main water system, and prevents water from reversing the direction it flows in.

What is the importance of having a Backflow Prevention Assembly?

Backflow Prevention Assemblies are critical components that protect the potable water systems from pollution or contamination sources. If backflow occurs, it can mean the contamination of the main water supply with harmful chemicals and bacteria. A backflow preventer stops the water from flowing in the wrong direction through a cross-connection incident.

What is a backflow?

Backflow is the reversal of flow of non-potable water or other substances through a cross-connection and into the main water system or consumer's potable water system. There are two types of backflow: backpressure and back-siphonage.

What is backpressure?

Backpressure occurs when the customer's pressure exceeds the main water system's pressure.

What is back-siphonage?

Back-siphonage occurs when the pressure in the main water supply line falls below atmospheric pressure.

What is cross-connection?

A cross-connection is a link between a potable water system and a non-potable system.

What are some examples of backflow and cross-connection scenarios?

- Soapy water or other cleaning products back-siphon into the public water system through a faucet or hose that is submerged in a bucket or sink.
- Pool water back-siphons into the public water system through a hose that is submerged in the pool.
- Fertilizers/pesticides back-siphon into the public water system through a garden hose attached to a sprayer.
- Pesticides and animal feces can be drawn into the public water system from a lawn irrigation system with submerged sprinkler heads.
- Bacteria/chemicals/additives in a boiler system back-siphon into the public water system.
- Unsafe water coming from a private well can apply backpressure and contaminate the public water system through a connection between the private well discharge and the potable water supply system.

A garden hose is the most common cause for cross-connection.

What happens when there is a backflow/cross-connection incident?

If your Backflow Prevention Assembly is working properly, the relief valve will dump the contaminated water to the ground preventing it from getting into the public water system.