

Policy No. PP006

Backflow Prevention Policy

1 INFORMATION ABOUT THIS POLICY

POLICY INFORMATION

Date Adopted by Board 25 August 2016	Resolution No. 20/017
Policy Responsibility General Manager	
Review Timeframe 2 yearly	
Last Review 21 February 2020	Next Scheduled Review February 2022

DOCUMENT HISTORY

DOCUMENT NO.	DATE AMENDED	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
19/9595	21/02/2020	Changed the backflow prevention device location from the property boundary to the meter
	DD/MM/YYYY	

FURTHER DOCUMENT INFORMATION AND RELATIONSHIPS

Related Legislation	AS 3500.1:2019 Plumbing and Drainage – Water Services: Part 1.
Related Policies	
Related Procedures, Protocols, Statements and Documents	Water Directorate Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control Guidelines July 2013.

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3 PURPOSE

To protect the quality of Goldenfields Water County Council (GWCC) water supply, by identifying hazards, and reducing the risk of contamination from backflow.

4 SCOPE

This policy applies to all new and existing customers within the GWCC supply system.

5 DEFINITIONS

Backflow – The unplanned reverse flow of water or mixtures of water and contaminants into the reticulated water supply system.

Backflow Prevention Containment Device – A device fitted at the property boundary to prevent the reverse flow of potentially polluted water into the drinking water system.

6 POLICY

All properties connected to the GWCC water supply network require a backflow prevention device. The specific device required will depend on the hazard rating of the property. Hazard ratings are defined in AS/NZS 3500.1 Plumbing and Drainage as;

- **High Hazard** – Any condition, device or practice that, in connection with the water supply system, has the potential to cause death.
- **Medium Hazard** – Any condition, device or practice that, in connection with the Water supply system, has the potential to endanger health
- **Low Hazard** – Any condition, device or practice that, in connection with the water supply systems, constitutes a nuisance but does not endanger health or cause injury.

GWCC will assign hazard ratings to all properties based on activities to be conducted. Industrial property owners are required to disclose current and/or intended operations to GWCC to assess risk. If the hazard varies due to multiple activities the highest hazard rating will apply.

Properties with a medium or high hazard risk rating must have a testable backflow prevention device installed at the meter. No connections may bypass the containment device. GWCC will maintain a database of devices and test results.

Properties with a low hazard rating will be fitted with a double check valve contained within the water meter for 20 and 25mm connections. Properties with a connection greater than 25mm will be fitted with a non-testable double check valve after the meter.

Fire service connections will be fitted with a testable double detector check valve and low flow bypass meter.

Properties that have both potable and non-potable water supplies are required to install a backflow prevention device on the potable water supply connection.

Compliant backflow prevention shall be achieved with installation of one of the following registered devices;

Registered device	Hazard Rating
Registered break tank with air gap	High/Medium/Low
Reduced pressure zone device	High/Medium/Low
Double detector check valve	Medium/low
Double check valve	Medium/low

All devices must be installed by persons authorised by GWCC

All devices must be commissioned and tested annually.

In a case where GWCC becomes aware of property that does not have a suitable backflow prevention device installed GWCC will advise the property owner to comply with this policy within 90 days. In the event that compliance is not reached within the timeframe GWCC reserve the right to disconnect the property until such time as compliance is achieved.