Dear Customers with Irrigation Systems,

If you already have, or are planning on installing an irrigation system you must first comply with the State of Oregon and City of Bend regulations. These rules and regulations require that all irrigation systems have approved backflow protection. A plumbing permit is also required when installing an irrigation system. A plumbing permit can be obtained from the Building Division located at City Hall at 710 NW Wall Street.

Without proper backflow protection, your irrigation system could endanger the health of your family, neighbors, and others in the community who are using the City of Bend public water system.

The following state approved backflow assemblies are required to be installed per City of Bend Standards and Specifications, and must be tested by a State of Oregon DHS Certified Backflow Assembly Tester upon installation, if moved or repaired and at least annually thereafter, (Oregon Administrative Rules, 333-061-0070):

1. Pressure Vacuum Breaker Assemblies (PVBA)
2. Double Check Valve Assemblies (DCVA)
3. Reduced Pressure Backflow Assemblies (RPBA)

Improper installations of a State of Oregon approved backflow assembly or failure to have the backflow assembly tested as required are grounds for termination of the water service. If you have any questions, please call (541) 317-3000.

Thank you,
City of Bend Public Works Department
Safe Drinking Water Program

For more information, please go to Safe Drinking Water on the City’s web site at www.ci.bend.or.us or please call us at (541) 317-3000.
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.

Due to state and federal regulations, water providers are required to track all backflow assemblies that are installed in their water distribution systems and insure that all backflow assemblies are tested and maintained at least annually.

What You Can Do

Modern water-using fixtures and appliances are made to guard against backflow. Many sinks, toilets, clothes washers and other water-using appliances have built-in backflow prevention features. The most common hazard leading to a backflow incident at a residence is through an underground irrigation system. Other potential hazards also exist in swimming pools, hot tubs, garden hoses, heating/cooling and fire sprinkler systems. These systems require specific backflow protection assemblies installed and tested annually according to currently adopted uniform plumbing code and Oregon Health Division Rules.

Please call the Public Works Water Utility Division if you have questions about these requirements or if you need more information about these systems and backflow prevention at (541) 317-3000.