

### **What is Backflow Prevention?**

Backflow prevention is the term used to refer to the prevention of an unwanted reverse flow of water from a potentially polluted source into the drinking water supply.

### **When does Backflow Occur?**

Backflow occurs when a condition exists in a water supply system that will cause back-siphonage or back-pressure. Back-siphonage can occur on a property through a vacuum created in the water supply system.

An example of back-siphonage would be a pipeline breakage, undersized pipework or high withdrawal rates. Back-pressure can occur within properties when high pressure is generated downstream by pumps, thermal expansion or elevation.

Backflow prevention starts within a property boundary by isolating a possible contamination source from the town mains or storage tanks (rainwater tanks) from the tap or appliance.

### **What is the Safeguard to Prevent a Backflow Occurrence?**

A correctly selected Backflow Prevention Device (one-way valve) will eliminate any risk of contamination of the drinking water supply.

Backflow Prevention Devices are either testable or non-testable types with the selection dependent on the risk associated with the possible contamination.

Council has the power to require the owner or occupier of premises to install, register, inspect, test, repair or replace a Backflow Prevention Device where it reasonably believes plumbing on the premises could pollute either the water supply in premises or the water service to premises.

### **Registration of Testable Backflow Prevention Devices**

Council is required under legislation to maintain a program for the registration, maintenance and testing of testable Backflow Prevention Devices.

Owners of an installed testable Backflow Prevention Device must register the device with Council. For new work approved by Council, registration will occur as part of this approval process.

For testable Backflow Prevention Devices added to an existing building, registration will occur once the licensed installer submits the associated Form 4 to the Plumbing Industry Council.

### **Annual Testing of Backflow Prevention Devices**

Under the *Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019*, owners of an installed testable Backflow Prevention Device must have the device inspected or tested annually, by a person who is licensed to perform the work.

The licensed person who inspects or tests a testable Backflow Prevention Device must give Council the written results of the inspection or test within 10 business days. Penalties may apply if the annual test certificate is not received within the required timeframe. Penalties may also apply if the annual test certificate is not received at this time.

The information collected on this form will be used by the Charters Towers Regional Council for the purpose of processing and assessment of your application/request. Your personal details will not be disclosed for a purpose outside of Council protocol, except where required by legislation (including the *Right to Information Act 2009* and *Information Privacy Act 2009*). This information will be stored on Council's database. The information collected will be retained as required by the *Public Records Act 2002*.