

Backflow Prevention: Lawn Irrigation Commercial and Residential

The City of Olathe works diligently to ensure safe, quality drinking water that is free from any contaminants. This effort begins with the protection of our water source and continues through the entire treatment process and ending where you draw water from the faucets in your home or business.

Lawn irrigation systems are considered high risk cross connections because any backflow could introduce fertilizers, pesticides, or other lawn chemicals into the drinking water system. To prevent and keep the water supply safe, the City adopted the International Plumbing Code, which requires all lawn irrigation systems to be equipped with an approved backflow preventer.

Approved Backflow Preventers

The City of Olathe allows two types of backflow preventer assemblies on irrigation systems. These assemblies include a Pressure Vacuum Breaker (PVB) or a Reduced Pressure Assembly (RP). The PVB must be installed at least 12” above the highest sprinkler head. The RP must be installed above ground with at least 12” below the assembly and enough room around it to perform maintenance.



The PVB must be installed at least 12” above the highest sprinkler head



The RP must be installed above grade with at least 12” below to allow the relief valve to drain. Installation also requires enough room around the backflow to perform maintenance at any time.