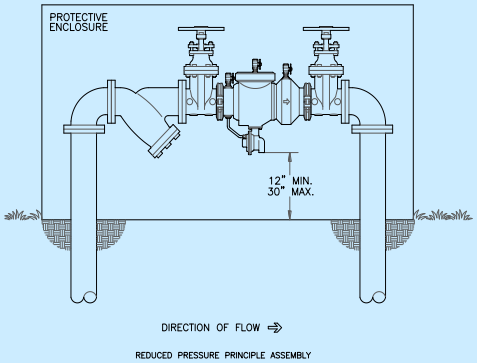
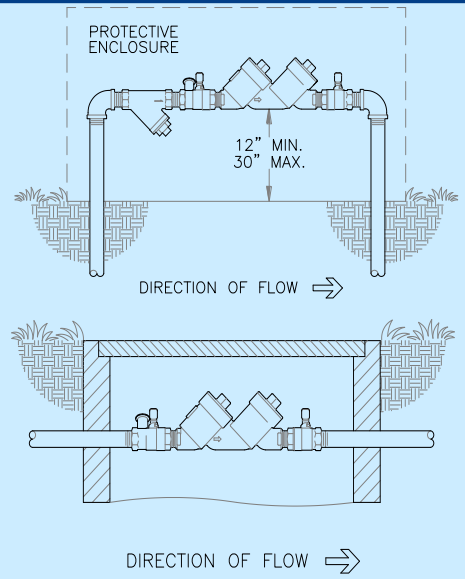
Types of Boundary Protection

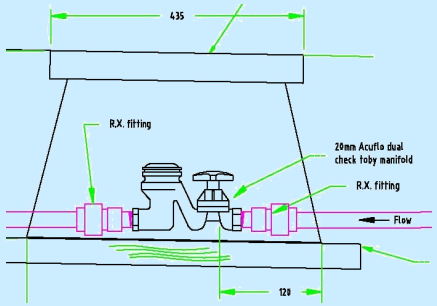
High Risk - Reduce Pressure Zone



Medium Risk - Double Check



Low Risk - Dual Check



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Or call into our Blenheim Customer Service Centre at

15 Seymour Street

Resources and helpful hints on:

www.marlborough.govt.nz under Utilities/Water Supplies

MDC

July 2012

MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

BACKFLOW PREVENTION (Boundary)

Protecting Water Networks

What is backflow?

Backflow is the undesirable reversal of the flow of water from its intended direction. Backflow at a property boundary is dangerous because it can allow contaminants from activities within a property to be drawn into the public drinking water supply. Backflow can occur when there is high pressure inside your property, or low pressure in Council water mains (such as when a water main bursts).

What are the risks to the water supply from my property?

The levels of risk are determined by the New Zealand Building Regulations 1992, schedule 1, G12.

- ⇒ **High Hazard**: Anything that has the potential to cause death.
- ⇒ **Medium Hazard**: Anything that has the potential to injure or endanger health.
- ⇒ **Low Hazards**: Anything that has the potential to alter colour, taste or odour, but not endanger health.

Examples of these hazards are:

- Swimming pools
- Fire sprinkler systems
- Lawn sprinkler systems
- Hairdressers
- Photo labs
- Petrol stations
- Medical/HealthCare facilities
- Marinas
- Abattoirs
- Stock water troughs
- Commercial food/ beverage premises

If water from any of these activities flowed back into public water supplies, there is the potential to provide any one of these hazards.

How is backflow prevented?

Backflow is prevented by installing a mechanical device on your water supply at the property boundary. The level of risk determines the type of device required:

- ⇒ **High risk**: Reduced Pressure Zone Valve (RPZ).
- ⇒ **Medium risk** Double Check Valve.
- ⇒ **Low risk**: Non-testable Dual Check Valve.

What is my responsibility?

The property owner has the primary responsibility to ensure that no hazardous pollutant or contaminant can enter the public water supply from their property. The Local Government Act 2002 and Marlborough District Council Bylaw 2002 state that it is an offence to pollute or contaminate the water supply.

Some properties will already have some form of backflow prevention inside the property, close to the source of risk. These devices have been installed to protect occupants of the property from the risks inside the property. Unfortunately, this protection does not always provide a level of protection adequate for the public water supply.

It is Council policy to require a device to be installed at the boundary of any property where a risk to the water supply has been determined. There is a cost associated with supplying and installing these devices which is the responsibility of the property owner or occupant to pay. Supply and installation is carried out by Council.

Council is required to test the medium and high risk devices annually. There is a charge associated with this annual

testing and this is to be paid by the property owner or occupant.

A schedule of fees will be available on the Council website.

What is Council's responsibility?

Council is required to protect all public potable water supplies.

Once any boundary backflow device has been installed, we will add this to a register and ensure that it is checked and tested on an annual basis.

We will be conducting ongoing surveys to ensure that the public water supplies are protected and provide guidance and resources to the public so they can minimise backflow potential.

Resources and helpful hints will be available on Council's website.