



Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control Requirements

The City of Shelby has a Backflow Prevention Program that is mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of North Carolina Public Water Supply Section in order to protect the public water systems from possible contamination from the backflow of water from the private side of meters. As a part of the Program, an approved backflow prevention assembly shall be installed on all commercial / industrial connections, connections to fire suppression systems, irrigation service connections, and meters of customers with pools. The backflow assembly is designed to ensure that once water is delivered beyond a water meter, the water cannot flow back into the public water supply.

Our Backflow Prevention Program evaluates the connections and the potential they have to cause health hazards in order to determine the type of backflow prevention assembly required. Refer to City of Shelby Code of Ordinances Section 44-129 for a list of facilities and the respective type of backflow prevention assembly required. The typical devices required are:

- Double Check Valve Assembly (DCV) - (Non-health hazard)
- Reduced Pressure Principle Assembly (RP) - (Health hazard, Irrigation Systems & Pools)

When a customer applies for a permit or new water service connection, the City will specify the type of device that will be required. The device must be included on the plans and/or will be specified on the Water and Sewer Tap Fee Form.

Important Information:

- Installation or replacement of backflow assemblies requires, at a minimum, a Restricted Limited Plumbing Contractor License and a permit issued by City of Shelby Planning and Development.
- The installation, testing and maintenance of all backflow prevention assemblies is the responsibility of the customer. Your contractor or plumber should be encouraged to install the device as soon as possible.
- Newly installed meters will be locked out until backflow device has been inspected by the Building Inspector, the device has passed certification and the testing information has been provided to the City of Shelby.
- Annual testing of all devices is required by a certified backflow testing contractor approved by the City of Shelby. Customers with backflow assemblies can see a list of approved testers on the AquaResource Customer Portal at <https://backflow.tecnxs.com/portal/52>.

More information can be found on the City's website at www.cityofshelby.com/backflow or by contacting the Backflow ORC at backflow@cityofshelby.com.