

## THE IMPORTANCE OF BACKFLOW DEVICES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY



You may have wondered why do you get a notification from IVGID about backflow testing annually. Not all homes require a backflow device, but if your home has a system that cross connects to the potable water system backflow devices are needed to protect the drinking water. These systems can include irrigation, boilers, and fire sprinklers. So you may be wondering... what is a backflow device and why do I care if it is tested? In December 2016 Corpus Christi, Texas had an extreme example of the hazards to public health and safety that can occur from poor backflow protection.

First, what is backflow protection. In a home, business or manufacturing facility there are chemicals that are added to the drinking water and then are used on the property. In a house this could be the glycol that is added to the fire sprinkler system or chemicals put in the hydronic system to keep it from corroding. The backflow device is a series of valves that prevent the flow of water from flowing backwards, pretty clever name. And yes, water can really flow backwards at your property from your house back towards the community's drinking water system.

Now back to Corpus Christi, a city of 320,000 people, 24 gallons of Indulin AA-86 possibly entered the city's water system where there was no backflow at a manufacturing facility. Indulin is used as an asphalt emulsifier. For 2 days, 85% of the city was told not to use the water. The water District then collected samples, worked with the State of Texas and issued new advisories where one third of the city was issued a "Do Not Use" advisory, one third advised "Limited Use" and one third of the customers where it was okay to use the water. These restrictions remained in place for weeks.

This is an extreme example but at the same time clearly shows that backflow devices are necessary to protect your drinking water. The backflow test performed each year makes sure the backflow device is working properly so that it will stop the flow of water from flowing back into the District's drinking water system that is used by everyone. If the device is not working, it can usually be repaired quickly without removing it completely and replacing worn valves and gaskets. These annual tests are also required by Nevada State Law.

## REMEMBER TO TURN OFF YOUR WATER EVERY TIME YOU LEAVE

Visit the winterization page on our website for additional info: [www.yourtahoeplace.com/public-works/water/winterization](http://www.yourtahoeplace.com/public-works/water/winterization)



## \$300 BEAR SHED REBATES AVAILABLE

\$300 rebates are available for residential properties which install an approved bear shed or commercial properties which install an approved wildlife enclosure on their property after July 1, 2016.

1. Submit application to IVGID Waste Not prior to installation and before March 31, 2017
2. IVGID Waste Not staff is available to help identify an approved installation location
3. Install bear shed prior to June 30, 2017 and provide proof of payment
4. IVGID Waste Not staff will verify site installation
5. Credit of \$300 will be applied to customers IVGID Public Works account

The rebate application is available on our website:

[www.yourtaohoeplace.com/public-works/waste-not/bear-wildlife-awareness/bear-box-placement](http://www.yourtaohoeplace.com/public-works/waste-not/bear-wildlife-awareness/bear-box-placement)

Questions? Call IVGID Waste Not at (775) 832-1284 or email: [wastenot@ivgid.org](mailto:wastenot@ivgid.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1,  
2017 @ 6 PM**

Free Radon Presentation  
IVGID Public Works  
1220 Sweetwater Rd

Learn where Radon comes from,  
how to test for it and how to fix  
Radon problems.

**IVGID PUBLIC WORKS  
WILL BE CLOSED  
THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

**IVGID PUBLIC WORKS  
IS AVAILABLE 24/7  
TO RESPOND TO  
WATER/SEWER  
EMERGENCIES.**

## Journey to Wellness

IVGID's 2017 Health & Wellness Initiative Annual Fitness Challenge

THE  
**JOURNEY**  
OF A THOUSAND MILES  
BEGINS WITH A  
**Single STEP.**

-LAO TZU

**SAVE THE DATE!**

IVGID's 8 Week Annual Fitness Challenge

February 20 through April 17, 2017

Early registration February 6 through February 17

Join your neighbors and friends as we journey  
towards wellness with this fun, motivating challenge.

For more information call 775.832.1330



Find us on Facebook!



**HHW & E-WASTE DROP-OFF TUES & THURS 3-5 PM  
THE SITE WILL BE CLOSED DURING SEVERE WEATHER**