



Potable Water Protection Policy

State of Iowa Containment Requirement

Iowa code requires cities with a population of 15,000 or greater to enact a backflow prevention program with a containment system. (Backflow is defined as the unwanted reversal of flow in a drinking water system.) The purpose of a containment system is to protect the quality of drinking water from the time it leaves the water treatment plant until it reaches the consumers.

City Requirement

City of North Liberty has implemented a policy and adopted a plumbing code to safeguard its water distribution system against contamination or pollution by water or other substance flowing into its system from a customer's system. Our internal policy meets or exceeds the standards set forth in Iowa Administration Code for Backflow Prevention with Containment.

Backflow Prevention

City of North Liberty's backflow prevention program is designed to protect our community's drinking water from accidental contamination that can occur due to cross-connections. A cross-connection is any point where contaminants can "backflow" from the customer's point of use into the public water supply. The Building Inspection Department is authority of jurisdiction and shall determine the type of backflow prevention assembly required for containment based on the degree of hazard as specified in the plumbing code.

Backflow prevention assemblies must be tested when they are installed and at least once each year after that. A certified backflow prevention assembly technician must complete testing to ensure that the backflow device is working properly. Test results are required to be uploaded to a third party tracking company called trackmybackflow.com.

Iowa Registered Backflow Assembly Testers

A list of registered certified backflow testers is available at www.trackmybackflow.com. The Iowa Department of Public Health keeps a complete list of registered backflow prevention testers by county.

New Water Service

Commercial & Industrial

The Building Inspection Department is authorized to require an approved reduced pressure zone backflow prevention assembly to be installed immediately downstream from the water meter and before any plumbing fixture or equipment. The plumbing code does require additional backflow protection at every cross connection hazard.

Residential

An approved reduced pressure zone backflow prevention assembly for isolation must be installed on branch piping serving a boiler, swimming pool, or in-ground lawn irrigation system.

Existing Water Service

Commercial & Industrial

Upgrades of existing water services shall be treated as new water services for the purpose of this section.

On premises survey may be conducted by the Building Inspection Department to ensure required backflow protection devices are installed and being maintained properly.

The Building Inspection Department shall determine the type of backflow prevention assembly required for containment based on the degree of hazard, as determined from information gathered through on premises investigations or surveys.

Residential

An approved reduced pressure zone backflow prevention assembly for isolation must be installed on branch piping serving a boiler, swimming pool, or in-ground lawn irrigation system.

Fire Protection Systems

An approved backflow prevention assembly must be installed and maintained on all new and existing fire protection systems.

Permit Requirement

Permit must be obtained from the Building Inspection Department to install or replace a backflow preventer.