

What is a backflow inspection?

It is inspection done by a certified backflow inspector on a device on a water line that keeps nonpotable water, other liquids, gases, and substances from flowing back into the public water supply.

Who needs a backflow inspection?

Anyone who has an underground sprinkler system, an animal watering system, or a swimming pool that is filled by its own direct line needs to have the device inspected annually. Even if a system is not being used, it has the potential to allow contaminants back into the water supply and must be inspected. Systems have to be completely and permanently severed from the water line and verified by our operators to be exempt from further inspections.

When does the inspection need to be done?

The inspection should be done in the spring before the system's first use. The proof/paperwork of the inspection is due in the water district office by May 31st of each year. The certified inspectors have the forms, complete them, and generally fax them to our office. They can also be mailed in or dropped off to the office.

Why?

PWSD #4 is required to collect documentation of these inspections for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources which protects the safety of Missouri's drinking water.

How can certified inspectors be contacted?

Inspectors can be found through system installers and many landscaping services. Call our office (858-2782) for inspectors in our area.

What are the consequences for non-compliance?

Notices will be placed on the water bills of those customers who have not yet had inspection documentation sent in. PWSD #4 has the right to disconnect water service where the system has gone un-inspected to maintain the safety of its public water supply.

For more information:

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Water Protection Program, Public Drinking Water Branch
1-800-361-4827
www.dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/index.html