



CITY OF THE DALLES
Department of Public Works
1215 West First Street
The Dalles, Oregon 97058

PRESS RELEASE

DEADLINE: April 12, 2019

PURPOSE: HOME SPRINKLER SAFETY

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FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

The City of The Dalles Public Works Department would like to remind citizens that backflow prevention helps protect the public water supply.

While sprinkler systems make it easy to water lawns and gardens, they also pose a potential risk. Without the proper plumbing equipment, water can flow backward (backflow), allowing contaminated water from your sprinkler system to flow into your home's drinking water supply and water mains.

Annual Backflow Prevention Assembly Testing

Backflow prevention assemblies are required to be tested at the time of installation, any repair or relocation; at least annually or more frequently as determined by the water supplier.

Backflow assembly testers complete several hours of training and complete a proficiency exam to become certified by the State of Oregon. Testers must recertify every two years.

The City provides a courtesy tester list with the annual test reminder to make it easy to find a certified professional to test an assembly.



Call The Dalles Water Distribution Division for a copy of the courtesy tester list, (541) 506-2013.

Sprinkler System Start Up Tips:

- **Test** the backflow preventer, the City provides a courtesy tester list to make it easy to find a certified professional to test your assembly.
- **Inspect** sprinkler heads, a broken one can release thousands of gallons of water per month.
- **Fix** leaks, According to the U.S EPA WaterSense program a small leak as small as the tip of a pen can use over 6,000 gallons per month.
- **Direct** spray onto lawns and plants to keep them green, not on pavement.
- **Program** your timer for a spring watering schedule, plan your summer and fall schedule.

By installing and testing a backflow preventer, you'll ensure safe drinking water for your household, neighborhood and our entire community.

For more information about home sprinkler safety visit the City website thedalles.org/water_distribution or contact the Public Works Department at (541) 296-5401.

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