

BACKFLOW DEVICE THEFT PREVENTION

Especially during the fall months, backflow devices become targets for thieves looking to cash in on the brass and copper elements of a backflow device. Since backflow devices are the property owner's responsibility for repair and replacement, EVMWD wants to assist you in the prevention of the theft.

STEPS TO DETER BACFKLOW THEFT:

- Paint your backflow device to decrease its scrap value.
- Stamp, label or identify the metal with a recognizable code.
- Enclose the backflow device within a protective cage. The cage should be secured or mounted to the ground. Have the cage spot-welded to the bolts to prevent theft.
- Add a high quality lock on the cage. A "hockey puck" style lock works best for cages without lock guards.
- Consider using a lock guard to protect locks from bolt cutter access.
- Post a visible warning sign near device.
- Consider a plastic backflow device, which has considerably fewer brass components.
- Camouflage your backflow device within the natural landscape surroundings.
- Use a heavy duty enclosure box for industrial or high security facilities.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR DEVICE IS STOLEN:

Turn off water supply valve upstream of backflow device. Report theft to EVMWD at 951-674-3146 x8401 and your local police or sheriff (non-emergency)



What is a backflow device?

A backflow preventer is a copper or brass valve device that is installed on the water service line leading in to commercial buildings, multi-family and single-family homes.

Why do we need them?

Backflow is a reversal of undesired water flow which can enter into a water distribution system. A backflow device is used to protect potable (drinking) water supplies from contamination or pollution due to backflow.

Why are backflow preventers stolen?

These devices are stolen for their brass and copper fixtures. The scrap metal value is approximately \$60 per unit. New or replacement units can cost more than \$850.

Who requires them?

Federal, State and City codes require water suppliers to protect their water systems from contamination.

BACKFLOW DEVICE THEFT PREVENTION

FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO STOP BACKFLOW DEVICE THEFT

Step 1: Paint, Label, or Coat



Paint your backflow preventer blue to decrease its scrap value. Stamp, label, or identify the metal with a recognizable code.

Step 2: Cover/Enclose



Enclose the backflow preventer within a protective cage. The cage should be secured or mounted to the ground.

Step 3: Secure



Put a high quality lock on the cage or use a lock guard to protect locks from bolt cutter access. A heavy-duty locking enclosure can also protect from theft.

Step 4: Post Warnings



Post a visible warning sign mentioning security and prosecution.

Step 5: Consider Plastic Options



A plastic backflow preventer is considered less valuable for thieves due to the minimal amount of brass.

Step 6: Hide/Conceal



Disguise your backflow preventer by covering or grouping with other natural surroundings. Use a heavy duty enclosure box for industrial or high security facilities.