



Building Community®

## CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL FACT SHEET #3: LAWN IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

***Irrigation systems have the potential for contaminants and pollutants to be introduced into the potable supply through submerged sprinkler heads, injectors or aspirators. JEA's Cross Connection Control policy requires the installation of reduced pressure backflow preventers to protect the public water supply.***

**Irrigation systems** for commercial customers require the installation of a **reduced pressure** backflow preventer (BFP). Residential customers with an irrigation meter, an in-ground irrigation system, an irrigation system designed for the injection of chemicals or a site with an auxiliary source of water (such as a well) must also have a **reduced pressure** backflow preventer installed per JEA's Cross Connection Control policy.

**Florida Plumbing Code 608.16.5** *Connections to lawn irrigation systems. The potable water supply to lawn irrigation systems shall be protected against backflow by an atmospheric-type vacuum breaker, a pressure-type vacuum breaker or a reduced pressure principle backflow preventer. A valve shall not be installed downstream from an atmospheric vacuum breaker. Where chemicals are introduced into the system, the potable water supply shall be protected against backflow by a reduced pressure principle backflow preventer.*



### **JEA-Approved BFP: Reduced Pressure**

JEA, the water purveyor and ultimately responsible for the quality of the water supply, does **not** approve either atmospheric or pressure vacuum breakers in this application for the following reasons:

- Both are effective only against back siphonage but not back pressure.
- Both have specific installation requirements relative to the height of any downstream piping which can be changed or modified after installation.
- Both protect against pollution but not against contaminants, or health hazards.
- Neither provides the level of protection JEA deems appropriate for potential hazards associated with lawn irrigation systems.

**Note:** Customers in reclaimed water service areas may have additional options (refer to Fact Sheet 2).

JEA is committed to protecting the public water supply to ensure it is free from pollutants and contaminants that pose a risk to the environment and health. Our Cross Connection Control policy conforms to industry/regulatory standards and recommendations of the American Water Works Association.

### **For More Information**

JEA's Cross Connection Control Policy: [jea.com/business/services/cccp/compliance.asp](http://jea.com/business/services/cccp/compliance.asp)

Chapter 62-555.360, FAC: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/legal/rules/drinkingwater/62-555.pdf>

Contact JEA's Cross Connection Control department by e-mail at [backflow@jea.com](mailto:backflow@jea.com) or leave a voice mail at 904 665-4410.

Rev. 03072011



Irrigation poses a high hazard to the drinking water supply, and these water service lines require reduced pressure backflow preventers to protect against pollution and health risks caused by contamination..

**Pollutant**—affects the appearance, taste or odor of the water  
**Contaminant**—poses a potential health risk

### Installation Requirements

JEA requires all backflow preventers be installed in accordance with manufacturers’ instructions and JEA Cross Connection Control policy and on the customer’s property.

If the irrigation system is fed from the same meter as the drinking water, an alternate location and an exception to policy is to install the backflow preventer on the irrigation supply after the connection to the service line before the first zone or sprinkler head.

The backflow preventer must be installed by a certified installer, tested by a certified tester upon installation and annually thereafter. Maintenance of the backflow preventer is the responsibility of the water service customer.

Any installation exceptions must be approved by JEA prior to installation.

Note: The installation of a reduced pressure backflow preventer may require additional plumbing adjustments to prevent thermal expansion damage to internal plumbing.

### Watering restrictions are specified by the St. Johns River Water Management District.

Mandatory lawn watering restrictions specify the days when homes and businesses may water. These days depend on whether you have an odd or even numbered address, and the time of year.

Time of year	Homes with odd numbered or no addresses	Homes with even numbered addresses	Nonresidential properties
Daylight saving time	Wednesday/Saturday	Thursday/Sunday	Tuesday/Friday
Eastern Standard Time	Saturday	Sunday	Tuesday

Remember, too, water only when needed and not between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Water for no more than one hour per zone. Restrictions apply to private wells and pumps, ground or surface water and water from public and private utilities.

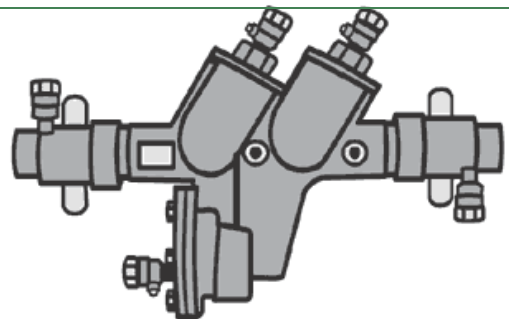
Some exceptions apply, and you are encouraged to visit the St. Johns River Water Management District Web site for complete details: [www.sjrwmd.com/](http://www.sjrwmd.com/).

### Cross Connection Control Fact Sheets

- 1—Premises with auxiliary water sources
- 2—Premises using reclaimed water
- 3—Lawn irrigation systems
- 4—Wet pipe fire sprinkler systems
- 5—Containment and isolation BFPs
- 6—Commercial backflow preventers

Visit [jea.com](http://jea.com) (click on “for your business,” “services and solutions” and “cross connection control”) for fact sheets and other information about JEA’s Cross Connection Control program.

You can also call 904 665-4410 or e-mail [backflow@jea.com](mailto:backflow@jea.com).



JEA’s Cross Connection Control policy (Appendix B, *JEA Rules and Regulations for Water, Sewer and Reclaimed Water Services* manual, Jan. 2011) is available online at [jea.com](http://jea.com): [jea.com/about/pub/downloads/cccp/JEACrossConnectionControlPolicy.pdf](http://jea.com/about/pub/downloads/cccp/JEACrossConnectionControlPolicy.pdf).