



Irrigation Specifications

****Please note that the system well must generate at least 1.5 gpm per lot for irrigation meters to be considered. Please inquire prior to installation****

STATE LAW REQUIRES SEPARATE IRRIGATION METERS (General Statutes 143-355.4)

State law requires a separate irrigation meter for all new in-ground irrigation systems connected to the public water supply. The intent of this legislation is to reduce water systems vulnerability to drought and allow them a quicker response to water shortages. Irrigation services must install as follows:

SINGLE SERVICE LINE

For new construction with irrigation, one 1" line will be tapped onto the main.

On an existing domestic service adding irrigation, a tee will be installed just before the domestic meter on the domestic line with an accessible isolation valve prior to the irrigation meter.

A backflow prevention assembly is typically installed immediately following the meter.

Irrigation meters and backflow prevention assemblies must be installed within 5 feet of and adjacent to domestic use water meters.

****No copper pipes will be allowed****

BACKFLOW PROTECTION

To ensure the safety of our community's drinking water, a backflow prevention assembly is required on in-ground irrigation systems. This prevents hazardous substances from inadvertently being drawn into the drinking water system, contaminating it.

The private water service connection (section of pipe between the meter and the backflow preventer including an isolation valve and the backflow preventer itself) serving the irrigation system must be installed by a North Carolina licensed plumbing or utility contractor and be pex pipes.

Workmanship and materials for this part of the system must be inspected by Old North State Water Company personnel.

Inspections of the private water service connection must be requested and scheduled by the contractor via email at info@onswc.com or calling 877-511-2911 option 2.

Temporary or permanent bypass or removal of installed backflow protection devices will not be allowed.

Installations of new in-ground irrigation systems must be performed by a North Carolina licensed irrigation contractor.

All water meter boxes must be at or above existing grade upon inspection to pass.

The bottom of meter, provided by ONSWC, shall be level with bottom of box. If below the box, the service must be raised and centered in box.

Irrigation meters and backflow prevention assemblies shall be installed below grade in separate water meter boxes.

The backflow prevention assembly shall be one of the following approved and lead free assemblies:
FEBCO Series 850 double check valve of appropriate size

Durn Wilkins 350XL ¾"

Installation will be in accordance with all applicable plumbing codes. The assembly should be located within 5' of the meter, on the consumer's side, and before any branching occurs, with the exception of underground sprinkler systems where the assembly may be installed on the branch line serving the sprinkler system. The consumer must not remove the meter.

Backflow prevention assemblies shall be located in an area that provides a safe environment for testing and maintenance. The area shall be easily accessible, dry, and free from dirt/debris and electrical hazards.

The need for replacement of existing backflow prevention assemblies that do not meet all of the above installation requirements will be determined by ONSWC on a case by case basis.

Backflow Prevention Assembly Testing and Maintenance

The owner(s) of any premise on which, or an account in which, a backflow prevention assembly is installed, shall be responsible for having the assemblies tested by a Qualified Backflow Assembly Tester. A backflow prevention assembly shall be tested after installation, relocation or repair, and once every twelve months, thereafter, unless more frequent testing is required by applicable state/local regulations. ONSWC may require a more frequent testing schedule if determined to be necessary. No assembly shall be placed in service unless it is functioning as required and an assembly shall be serviced, overhauled, or replaced whenever it is defective.

ONSWC will notify affected consumers by mail when testing of an assembly is needed and also supply the affected consumer with the necessary form that shall be completed each time an assembly is tested, relocated, or repaired.

It shall be the duty of the consumer at any premise on which backflow prevention devices required by these regulations are installed to have inspections, test, and overhauls made annually or more often where inspections indicate a need.

Inspections, tests, and overhauls of backflow prevention devices shall be made at the expense of the water consumer and shall be performed by a person qualified to inspect, test and overhaul backflow prevention devices.

Whenever backflow prevention devices required by these regulations are found to be defective, they shall be repaired, overhauled or replaced at the expense of the consumer without delay.

The water consumer shall maintain a complete record of each backflow prevention device from purchase to retirement. This record shall include all tests, inspections, repairs and overhauls.

Records of inspections, tests, repairs and overhaul shall be submitted to ONSWC by January each year.

Backflow prevention devices shall not be bypassed, made inoperable, removed or otherwise made ineffective without specific written authorization by ONSWC.

Written approval must be obtained from ONSWC before a backflow prevention assembly is relocated or permanently removed.

Relocation

An assembly may be relocated following confirmation by ONSWC that the relocation will continue to provide the required protection and satisfy installation requirements. Removal and reinstallation of the assembly must be done by a Qualified Backflow Assembly Installer. A test is required following the relocation of the assembly.

Repair/Replacement

An assembly may be removed for repair or replacement, provided the service line is shut off and water use is discontinued until the repair/replacement is completed and the assembly is tested and found to be operating correctly. Alternatively, the service connection may be equipped with other temporary backflow protection, approved by ONSWC, if continuous service is required. Repair or replacement of the assembly must be done by a Qualified Backflow Assembly Installer. All replacement assemblies shall be of a model or construction approved by ONSWC and must be commensurate with the degree of hazard present. A test is required following the repair or replacement of the assembly.

Winterization of the meter and connection must be completed annually.

MORE INFORMATION

To request an irrigation meter or for meter and fee questions please call 1-877-511-2911 option 2.