

# Modern Electric Water Company

## Recommended Installation Practice For Lawn Sprinkling Systems For Homeowners & Irrigation Installers

Irrigation systems make watering lawns and gardens easier, save time and money. But, water that may be contaminated by weed killers and/or fertilizers can be back-siphoned (backflow) into your drinking water. Irrigation systems not protected by approved backflow prevention assemblies could endanger the health of a household, neighborhood or community. For the purpose of protecting the health of consumers and the quality of the drinking water supply, the Washington State Board of Health and Uniform Plumbing Code has adopted rules, codes and regulations pertaining to Cross Connections. These rules, regulations and codes are a binding obligation to installers, water purveyors and local government entities. Therefore, they have been adopted and will be enforced by Modern Electric Water Company.

All irrigation systems new or existing must be equipped with an approved backflow prevention assembly. Only properly installed, state-approved backflow prevention assemblies meet the plumbing's codes and provide health protection to your family and neighbors. These assemblies must be the brand and model approved by the State.

All irrigation systems supplied by public water require a plumbing permit before installation.

All backflow prevention assemblies must be installed in a manner that will facilitate their proper operation, and in-line testing and maintenance. They must also be installed in compliance with safety regulations, and all applicable building and plumbing code regulations. As improper assembly installation decreases the reliability of the assembly in preventing backflow.

Each manufacturer provides recommendations for the proper installation of their assemblies. However, the water purveyor or other approval authorities may have installation requirements that differ from the manufacturer's recommendations. In all cases, the more stringent installation requirements of the water purveyor must govern. See the enclosed for installation of Backflow Preventers.

Please contact us when the installation of your lawn sprinkling system is completed. At that time we will do a survey inspection and a one time **"Free Test"** of your newly installed system. Thereafter, all Annual Testing will be the responsibility of the property owner. The Washington State Board of Health and Uniform Plumbing Code requires the testing and installation of Backflow Protection. A State Certified Backflow Assembly Tester must do the Annual Testing (Modern Electric Water Company can supply a list of certified testers on request) and the results of testing provided to Modern Electric Water Company. Testing insures the assemblies protect as designed.

- 1. We recommend you contact us for this survey/inspection as soon as the assemble is installed and prior to paying your contractor.*
- 2. Please make sure your Lawn Sprinkler System Installer receives enclosed installation instructions.*

**Connections to Potable Water (drinking water) are prohibited without proper backflow protection. Improper installations of lawn sprinkling systems may cause termination of water service until proper backflow protection is installed.**

If you have further questions, or if we can be of assistance please contact us at (509) 755-9010.