

# Backflow Prevention Devices

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In August 2004, the City of Derby revised its water cross-connection control rules to comply with federal and state law to require backflow prevention devices for lawn sprinkler systems. Cross connections are points at which the drinking water supply is interconnected with hazardous liquids, gases or other unsafe substances. The rules and regulations were established by the Kansas Department of Health & Environment in accordance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. These rules can be found in the 2006 International Plumbing Code (Section 608).

## What is a backflow prevention device?

Backflow prevention devices are mechanical devices that protect drinking water from hazardous contaminants found in lawn sprinkler systems (herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers, bacteria, and organisms), which may originate in the soil around sprinkler heads.

Backflow prevention devices are installed where the water line comes into your house to prevent water from flowing backwards. When drinking water is pulled through the main line (when you use your sink, toilet, etc.), it can siphon water through one of your branch lines (sprinkler system line). When the water is siphoned, it pulls whatever is in the line with it. In a sprinkler system, herbicides and pesticides can be siphoned through the drinking water system through sprinkler heads. A backflow prevention device prevents water and contaminants from getting through.

## Who needs a backflow prevention device?

Any resident or business with a lawn sprinkler irrigation system connected to the drinking water supply. If you have a private well not connected to the drinking water supply, you are not required to have a backflow prevention device. Please call the City at 788-1424 to update your records.

## How do I register my backflow device?

You are required to have a Certified Backflow Installer/Tester inspect your backflow device annually. On completion of the inspection, your contractor should submit your test results to the City. If you do not have a lawn service contractor, a list of qualified providers may be obtained by calling the City at 788-1424.

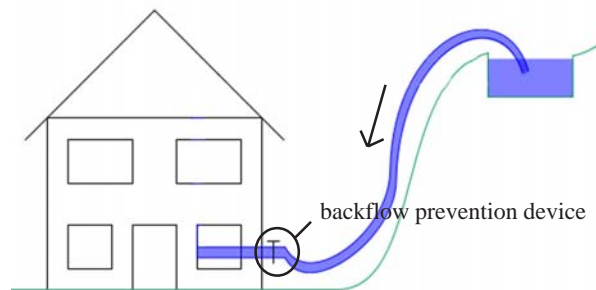
## How do I know if there is a problem with my water?

If you notice a change in the smell, color, taste or presence of foreign objects in your drinking water, call the City immediately at 788-1424, or call 788-8888 after regular business hours to notify the Derby Police Department. Why call the police? Because these signs indicate a possible leak in the water system, which would affect you and your neighbors.

If you have questions or comments, call 788-1424.

## Backflow prevention device example

Water from the hillside pool flows back down the pipe and into the home's drinking water supply. To prevent this backflow from happening, the home's external tap should be fitted with a backflow prevention device.



# Backflow Prevention Devices



# Rain Sensor Requirements

# Rain Sensors Required by July 1, 2009

In April 2008, the Derby City Council passed an ordinance requiring mandatory use of rain sensors in automatic irrigation systems in Derby.

Beginning in May 2008, rain sensors were required for all new residential and commercial irrigations systems. Residents and business owners with existing automatic irrigation systems (both well water and city water) are required to install a rain sensor by July 1, 2009.

## What is a rain sensor?

A rain sensor is an electronic device that measures rainfall and interrupts the automatic irrigation cycle. The sensor turns off the system when a predetermined amount of rain has fallen. Sensors are mounted above ground in an open area well-suited for gauging rain.

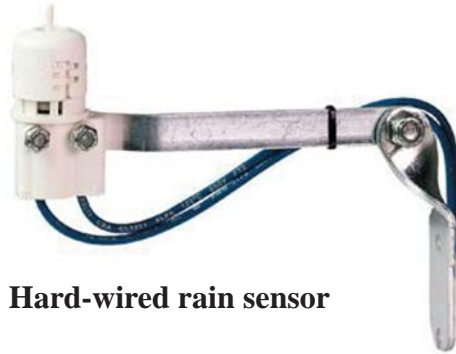
According to the ordinance, rain sensors need to be set to turn off your automatic irrigation system when 1/2 inch or more rain has fallen (although residents can adjust sensors to a lower setting).

## Why is this required?

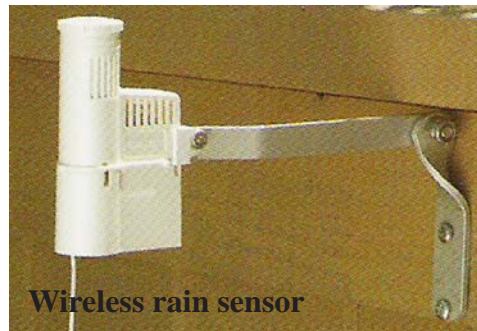
As a public water supplier, the City of Derby is making water conservation a priority. Water is an increasingly valuable resource that should not be wasted. The City encourages residents and business owners to make water conservation practices a priority as well.

## What do rain sensors look like?

There are two kinds of rain sensors available - wireless and hard-wired. Here are two examples:



Hard-wired rain sensor



Wireless rain sensor

## Where can I buy a rain sensor?

Rain sensors can be found at most area garden centers. You may also research different products available on-line. If you use a landscaping company or sprinkler system service provider, you may ask them for assistance.

## How much do they cost?

Rain sensors generally cost between \$20 and \$60. Installation can be performed by either the property owner or by engaging the services of a sprinkler system service provider (who will charge a fee for services). You may choose between a wireless or hard-wired rain sensor.

If you have questions, please call the City of Derby at 788-1424 or visit [www.derbyweb.com](http://www.derbyweb.com).

## Water Conservation Tips for Your Garden & Yard

- Water during the morning to cut down on evaporation.
- Add compost to your soil to improve its water-holding capacity. Mulch acts as a blanket to keep in moisture and help prevent soil erosion, soil compression and weeds.
- Check for and repair leaky hose connections and sprinkler valves.
- Water trees and shrubs, which have deep root systems, longer and less frequently than shallow-rooted plants, which require smaller amounts of water less often.
- Porous paving materials, such as brick, decomposed granite and gravel, used in patios and walkways help keep water in the garden.