

City of Ellensburg

Underground Irrigation System Installation Requirements

Gannon Geiger (509) 962-7278
Cross Connection Specialist

1. Before installing underground landscape irrigation/sprinkler/drip systems that are connected to City water installers are required to obtain an Irrigation Backflow Permit.* Completed application forms along with a \$10 permit fee must be submitted to the Public Works Department for approval.
2. The work must conform to the City of Ellensburg's irrigation standards. These can be found on the internet at www.ci.ellensburg.wa.us/index.aspx under the following headings: Departments, Public Works, Water Department, Cross Connection Control or you may call and have the standards forwarded to you.
3. A Washington State approved backflow assembly must be properly installed downstream of the water meter maintaining a minimum of 3' separation that includes the 'tie in', meter box and other utility valves etc. Irrigation system installation should also include a winterization 'blow out' as well. Note: never 'blow out' through any part of a backflow assembly!
4. The backflow assembly, valve box and piping tie-in installation must be inspected and tagged by the City's Cross Connection Specialist prior to its use.
5. After the installation has been approved, at the owner's expense, the assembly must be tested and passed by a City approved Backflow Assembly tester (BAT) before the system is placed into service. Please call 962-7278 for the current list of testers. Assemblies must be tested annually thereafter as set forth in WAC 246-290-490. Reminder letters are sent out in May of each year.
6. Systems that are connected to auxiliary water just include either a Reduced Pressure Backflow Assembly or an approved Air Gap. Auxiliary systems are unapproved water sources and include ditch water, wells, ponds, sumps, etc.

Dial 811 ~ CALL BEFORE YOU DIG ~ Dial 811

*Permit application forms may be obtained from the Public Works Department located on the second floor of City Hall 501 n Anderson Street Ellensburg WA 98926