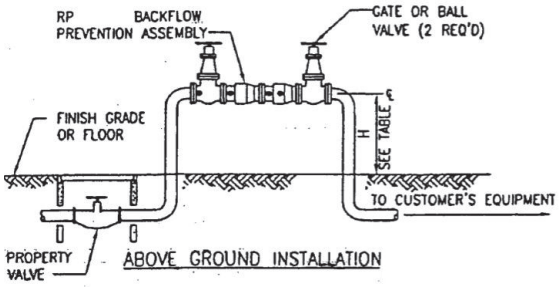
What is a Backflow Preventer?

A backflow preventer is a copper or brass valve device that is installed on the water service line leading in to commercial buildings, multi-family and single family homes.



Why are backflow preventers stolen?

Thieves take them for their copper and brass. The scrap metal value is approximately $40 to $100 per unit. New or replacement units cost $1,200 to $2,000 each.

Why do we need them?

Backflow is an undesirable reversal of water flow that might enter into a water distribution system. A backflow preventer is used to protect potable (drinking) water supplies from contamination or pollution due to backflow.

Who requires them?

Federal, State and City of Glendale laws/codes require water suppliers to protect their water systems from contamination under the Safe Drinking Water Act, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (Code R18-4-215) and the adopted city plumbing codes.

Glendale
ARIZONA

Emergency Steps:
(If backflow device is stolen)

Turn off water supply valve upstream of backflow device.

Report theft to City of Glendale Water Services:

623-930-4100

- And -

Report theft to Glendale Police:

623-930-3000 (non-emergency)

Note: Backflow Preventers are the property owner's responsibilty for repair and replacement.

623-930-4100

GlendaleAZ.com/WaterServices

*Printed on recycled content paper

Stop Backflow Preventer Theft

623-930-4100

GlendaleAZ.com/WaterServices

FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO STOP BACKFLOW PREVENTER THEFT

STEP 1: PAINT, LABEL OR COAT

Paint your backflow preventer blue or spray with truckbed liner coating to decrease its scrap value.

Stamp, label (multiple places) or identify the metal with a recognizable code.

STEP 2: COVER/ENCLOSE

Enclose the back-flow preventer within a protective cage. The cage should be secured or mounted to the ground. Have the cage spot-welded to the bolts to prevent theft.

STEP 3: SECURE

Put a high quality lock on the cage. “Hockey Puck” style locks work best for cages without lock guards.

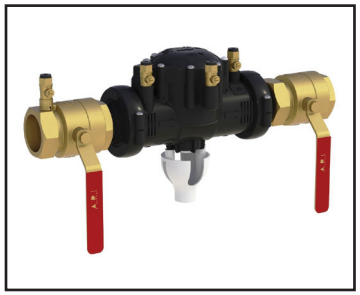
Lock guards protect locks from bolt cutter access.

Heavy-duty locking enclosure protects backflow preventer from theft.

STEP 4: POST WARNINGS

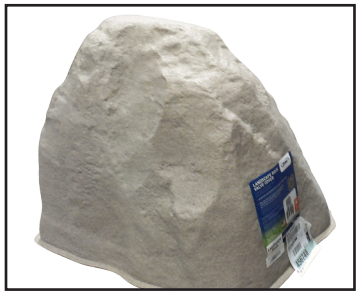
Post a visible warning sign mentioning security and prosecution.

STEP 5: CONSIDER PLASTIC OPTIONS



A plastic backflow preventer is an option. They are considered less valuable for thieves due to the minimal amount of brass contained in the device.

STEP 6: HIDE/CONCEAL



Disguise your backflow preventer by covering and grouping with other natural landscape surroundings.

Use a heavy duty enclosure box for industrial or high security facilities