

Disconnecting & Capping Irrigation Systems

Do you have a lawn irrigation system? Be aware of your responsibilities.

Protecting water from contamination benefits all of us.



Due to the environmental hazards found on lawns, irrigation systems are considered high hazards with potential to backflow into the public water distribution system. For this reason, these systems must have an approved backflow prevention assembly installed and tested annually. It is the owner's responsibility to ensure that cross connections do not exist, and that the backflow prevention device is installed and maintained.

Property owners may choose to discontinue using their lawn irrigation system for a variety of reasons, but backflow prevention requirements are still in effect and enforced – unless the system is permanently disconnected. If the property owner chooses to disconnect their system, it is recommended that you consult with and/or hire a licensed plumber/contractor, professional irrigation company, or similar to ensure that the job is done correctly.



Important Items to Remember

- ✓ A shutoff valve is not a sufficient method for backflow prevention.
- ✓ Dedicated irrigation lines — Remove the backflow preventer and cap the line there.
- ✓ To avoid possible added costs, contact Norfolk Utilities if you are unsure of how or where to cap the lines.

If you are ready to begin the process or have already completed the process of disconnecting your lawn irrigation system, please contact the Cross Connections office at (757) 441-5774, Ext. 262 or reach us by email at UTBackflow@Norfolk.Gov to ensure our records are up to date. Together, we can make a difference!