

Backflow Prevention

What is a backflow prevention device and how does it relate to irrigators?

Backflow prevention devices are crucial to the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA) because they help protect water quality by preventing contaminated water from polluting the aquifer. These devices ensure that water from irrigation systems in which chemicals or fertilizers have been added does not pollute water supplies by preventing contaminated water from flowing backwards into the water supply.

The landowner is ultimately responsible for the maintenance and use of the water supply well (OAR 690-215-0005). If you are a landowner within the LUBGWMA area using a well for irrigation in combination with the use of fertilizers or chemicals, then you are required to have a functional backflow device installed and functioning properly. **See OAR 690-215-0017(3) for more information.**

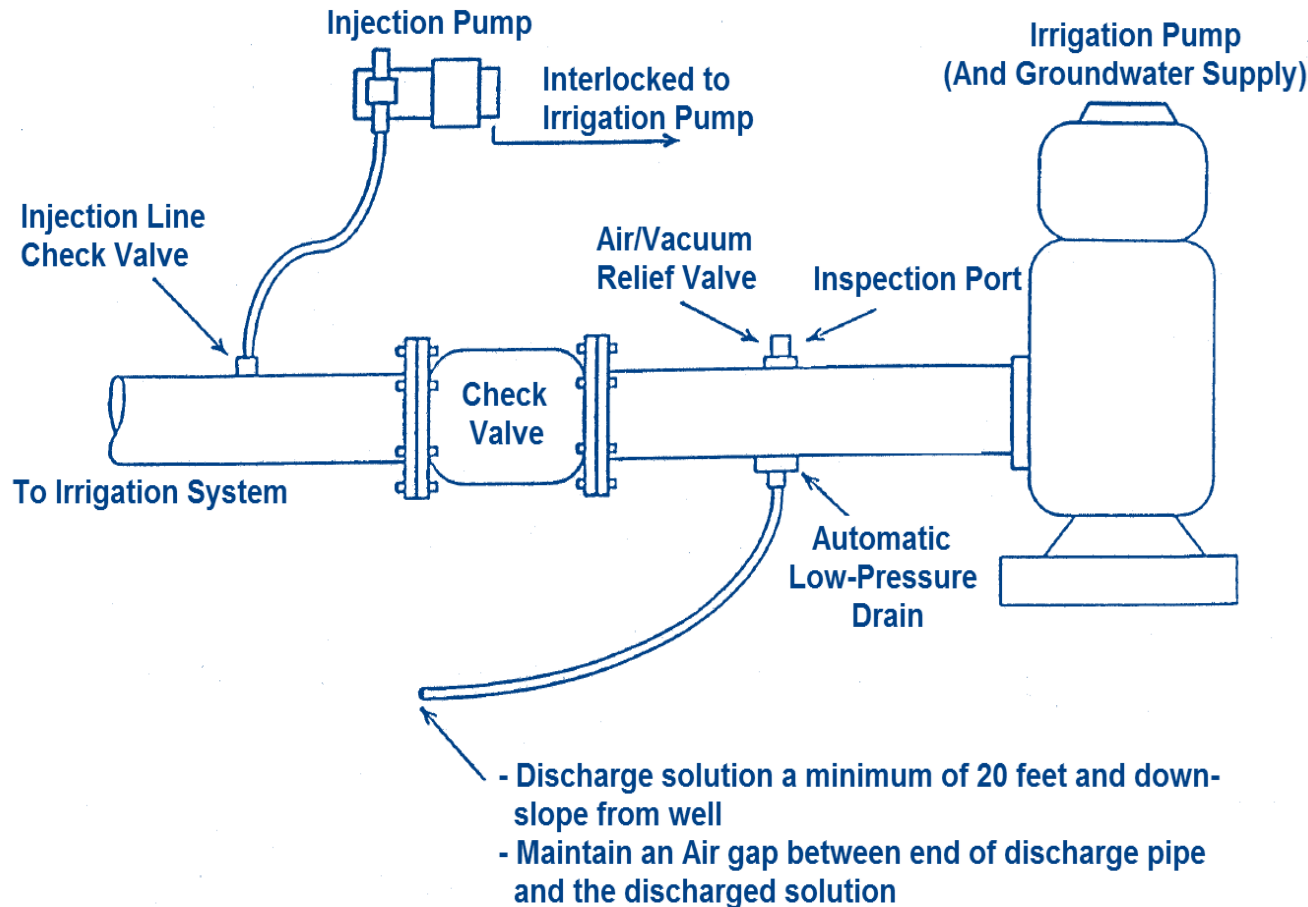
The Oregon Water Resources Department is committed to working with landowners in the LUBGWMA to provide resources and assistance. Please contact the North Central Region Office at (541) 278-5456 if you have any questions about these rules or backflow prevention devices.



Examples of a backflow prevention devices using check valve, vacuum relief and low-pressure drain.

Requirements for Chemigation and Fertigation Systems Connected to Wells

These requirements are in addition to equipment requirements under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, and do not replace those requirements. The Department may approve modifications to these requirements if necessary; however, modification should provide greater than or equal to the level of protection of the groundwater resource.



As shown in the diagram, effective backflow devices must include all the following:

- Automatic low-pressure drain
- Inspection port
- Irrigation line check valve
- Air/vacuum relief valve
- Chemical injection line check valve
- System interlock

For more information, contact:

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541-278-5456 | owrd.info/backflow