



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (DRAFT DOCUMENT)

Q: I have an in-ground irrigation system. I currently have a second water meter that runs when I use the system. What changes need to be made?

A: A precipitation monitor and programmable timer must be set up with your irrigation meter. They should be installed and tested annually (once per calendar year). The test form is available online and this test needs to be conducted by your irrigation company. A backflow device needs to be installed by the plumber and certified by a backflow device tester (The list of state certified testers is available online at: <http://www.ashlandmass.com/469/Irrigation-Systems>).

It does not matter if you have a septic tank for sewer or have a municipal connection for sewer.

Q: I have an irrigation meter installed, but I have not watered my lawn and do not intend to use irrigation water? I do not want to install any devices as it will cost me more money. What can I do?

A: Please note that regardless of usage, if you wish to keep the irrigation system on your property the system needs to be under compliance with the state and Town codes. If you wish to uninstall the irrigation system, make an appointment with a plumber for a complete disconnect from the water system. Also make an appointment with the water / sewer department for our personnel to inspect it. We will then be able to update our records on your property so that irrigation related mailings / bills do not continue coming to the property.

Q: What kind of backflow prevention device?

A: All Backflow prevention devices installed must comply to 310 CMR 22.00 and the cross connection control regulations in the Town of Ashland code (Per 334, Appendix C, 4.0 Policy and 5.0 Definitions). If you currently have a PVB (Pressure Vacuum Breaker) device and your Backflow device test fails, the replacement will need to be an RPZ (Reduced Pressure Zone) device.

Q: Who should install? What's the process? Who inspects and what does the town provide?

A: **FOR METERS:** If it is a meter change / upgrade, the Town of Ashland Water/Sewer department provides the replacement irrigation meter. If it is a new install the plumber follows the guidelines per the Irrigation permit obtained from Dept. of Public works. The Town's Authorized meter distributor is Ti-Sales, the plumber purchases from this distributor.

The plumber installing the meter would get the appropriate permit from the Inspections office (Town hall) and then pay the Irrigation permit fee at the (DPW) and follow all the steps accordingly. The Town's Plumbing inspector inspects and validates the irrigation system and relevant plumbing. DPW Water /

Sewer personnel inspect the meter and update our records. To ensure a smooth process, please call the offices to make appointments as necessary - Plumbing inspector office at 508-881-0100 Ext 7123 and Water department at 508-532-7940.

FOR BACKFLOW DEVICES: For existing or new irrigation systems, a plumber installs the Backflow prevention device and the Plumbing inspector inspects and approves the installation. The homeowner is then responsible to make an appointment with a certified tester (both at the time of install and once every calendar year after that, the test form needs to be submitted to DPW). An irrigation company can install the Precipitation monitor (Rain gauge) and the Programmable timer. These devices also need to be tested annually and the form submitted to DPW (form available online at: <http://www.ashlandmass.com/469/Irrigation-Systems>). The irrigation company can submit the filled out form digitally to pnardini@ashlandmass.com or mail at: Dept. of Public works, 20 Ponderosa Rd, Ashland MA-01721.

Q: When do we do the testing? Is it once a calendar year? Who do we send it to?

A: Testing of Backflow devices (by Mass DEP – State certified testers) and testing of precipitation monitors and timers (by irrigation companies) need to be done once every calendar year. The filled out test forms will have to be submitted to DPW, either digitally / through mail.

Q: I have a secondary water meter for outdoor watering but I only have a few spigots connecting to this meter. Do I need to install these devices?

A: You do not need to install these devices unless you have an in-ground irrigation system.

Q: I have no irrigation system and / or do not have an irrigation meter. Please don't send me any mailings related to irrigation.

A: Please call our Water/ Sewer department at 508-532-7952 or email at dpw@ashlandmass.com, so that we can confirm your property's irrigation status. Once confirmed, we can update our records and remove you from the mailing / billings.

Q: I have irrigation well and hence do not have an irrigation meter. Do I need to comply with these Town codes? Why am I getting a letter on irrigation system compliance?

A: Currently, the Town by-law codes are valid for municipally supplied water. Please call our Water/ Sewer department or email at dpw@ashlandmass.com - so that we can confirm your property's irrigation status. Once confirmed, we can update our records and remove you from the mailing / billings.