

## Time to Winterize Lawn Sprinkler Systems

**(October 17, 2019)** – Lawn sprinkler systems should be getting winterized soon. If your backflow preventer is located outdoors, remember to either blow it out or remove and store it someplace warm for the winter.

You may temporarily cover the backflow preventer with a blanket, towels, or similar material. Insulation and/or heat tape may also be used, but would be insufficient protection for the winter. Allowing it to freeze is a costly mistake. If removed, remember where you stored it.

You will need to give the backflow preventer to your lawn irrigation contractor or plumber next spring for reinstallation. State regulations and city ordinance requires backflow preventers be tested upon re-activation every year by a certified tester. Once the test is complete, test results must be submitted by your tester to the Evansville Water and Sewer Utility (EWSU).

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) requires every water supplier to develop and implement a comprehensive cross connection control program for the elimination of existing cross connections and prevention or protection from all future cross connections on potable drinking water systems. Regulations are enforced to keep our drinking water safe.

Residential backflow preventers may be found on lawn irrigation systems, wet fire protection systems, hot water heating (boiler) systems, swimming pool fills, water features, etc. Backflow preventers may also be required if there is another water source on the site such as a well, pond, river, etc.

The EWSU has created the Evansville Cross Connection Control Program to safeguard public health. We ask for your cooperation with our program, its enforcement, and any requests for information that come from Aqua Backflow or EWSU staff.

For more information, go online to [www.ewsu.com/xcc](http://www.ewsu.com/xcc), or contact the Evansville Cross Connection Program at 812-436-7015. Click the following link for information on the city ordinance on backflow prevention under Section 13.15.050 in the Evansville Municipal Code: <https://www.codepublishing.com/IN/Evansville/#!/html/Evansville13/Evansville1315.html>