Backflow Preventer Service & Testing

Protecting Your Family's Drinking Water – One Valve at a Time.

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN OUR TECHNICIAN ARRIVES

When you schedule a **Backflow Preventer service** with Bayshore Plumbers, our certified technician will arrive promptly and prepared. Here's what will happen onsite:

1. **Introduction & Site Assessment**
    - We'll briefly explain the backflow device's location and purpose in your water system.
    - Our tech will inspect the valve assembly and surrounding piping for obvious wear, leaks, or corrosion.
2. **Backflow Testing (Mandatory for Certain Devices)**
    - We connect a calibrated gauge to test water pressure integrity on both sides of the valve.
    - This ensures the device is functioning properly and preventing reverse water flow.
3. **Reporting & Certification (If Applicable)**
    - If your device is part of a regulated system (like irrigation, fire suppression, or commercial use), we'll provide a **certified test report** for city or utility compliance.
4. **Recommendations or Repairs**
    - If your device fails the test or is leaking, we'll walk you through the repair or replacement options.
    - If we suspect contamination risk or water quality concerns, we may recommend further inspection.
5. **Cleanup & Wrap-Up**
    - We restore the area to its original condition and answer any questions you may have.
    - All work is documented, and we'll remind you about future re-testing schedules.

Total Time: 30–90 minutes (testing), 1–3 hours (repair or replacement)

WHAT IS THIS FIXTURE FOR? WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

A **Backflow Preventer** is a **one-way valve** that keeps dirty or contaminated water from flowing backward into your clean drinking water.

Why It Matters:

- When water pressure drops suddenly (like from a main break or hydrant use), water can reverse direction — pulling **pesticides, fertilizers, bacteria, or chemicals** from sprinklers, boilers, or hose bibs back into your home's supply.
- This can **seriously contaminate** your family's water — or even your neighborhood's.

Think of it like a **check valve for your water supply** — protecting your home and your health.

REPAIR OR REPLACE? YOUR OPTIONS

Depending on what we find during inspection or testing, you'll have options:

- **Repair** – Rebuilding internal parts if the body is in good condition.
- **Spot Repair** – Replace o-rings, springs, or test cocks to fix minor leaks.
- **Full Replacement** – If the body is cracked, corroded, or obsolete.
- **Upgrade** – Install a newer, low-profile, lead-free model with improved reliability and performance.

COMPARE YOUR OPTIONS

Option	✅ Pros	⚠️ Cons	💵 Budget	📍 Ideal When…	⏱️ Time
Spot Repair	Fast, cost-effective, fixes minor issues	May not solve internal damage or wear	$	Leaks from test ports, minor part failures	30–60 mins
Rebuild Kit	Reuses housing, replaces internals, restores function	Not viable for all models or major corrosion	$$	Annual testing failures, internal leakage	1–2 hrs
Full Replacement	Brand new valve, full warranty, code-compliant	Higher cost, more labor	$$$	Severe corrosion, cracks, device no longer certified	2–3 hrs
Upgrade Model	Compact design, better materials, lead-free & efficient	Slightly more expensive	$$$+	High-usage systems, long-term prevention	2–3 hrs

HOMEOWNER TIPS & TRICKS

- **Test Annually**
  Most cities *require* annual backflow testing — especially for irrigation or fire protection systems. We'll remind you when it's due!
- **Know the Signs of Trouble**
  - Low water pressure
  - Strange taste or discoloration
  - Visible leaks or corrosion near outdoor valves
  - Failed city inspection notice
- **Protect the Unit**
  - Keep grass, soil, or debris away from the valve area.
  - In cold weather zones, insulate or wrap the device during winter to avoid freeze damage.
- **Install a Hose Bib Vacuum Breaker**
  - A $5 add-on that protects your garden hose from drawing chemicals or dirty water back into your plumbing.

TRUST BAYSHORE PLUMBERS
Since 2007, **Bayshore Plumbers** has proudly served the San Francisco Bay Area with licensed, insured, and family-focused plumbing solutions. Whether it's your home irrigation system, fire protection line, or commercial property, our certified backflow technicians ensure your **water stays clean and safe — always**.

📞 **Need your backflow tested, repaired, or replaced? Contact us today to schedule your service or stay compliant with your city.**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ's):

1. What is a backflow preventer, and why do I need one?

A backflow preventer is a one-way valve that keeps dirty or contaminated water from flowing back into your home's clean water supply. It's essential for protecting your family's drinking water from pesticides, chemicals, and bacteria that could backflow from sprinkler systems, hose bibs, or even city water line issues.

2. How do I know if my backflow preventer needs testing or repair?

If you've noticed **low water pressure**, discoloration, or strange tastes in your water — or if your city sent you a backflow test reminder — it's time to have it checked. Our certified technicians can test your device and fix minor leaks or replace worn-out parts on the spot.

3. Is backflow testing required every year?

Yes, in most Bay Area cities, **annual testing is mandatory** for irrigation systems, fire sprinklers, and other regulated plumbing setups. We provide certified reports for city compliance and even send you reminders when testing is due.

4. What happens if my backflow preventer fails the test?

If your device fails, we'll walk you through the options: from quick part replacements (like springs or o-rings) to a full rebuild or complete replacement if the valve body is cracked or corroded. We'll always explain the costs upfront before doing any work.

5. How long does the test or repair take?

Most backflow tests take **30 to 90 minutes**. Repairs or replacements typically range from **1 to 3 hours**, depending on the complexity. Our team comes prepared to handle everything during the same visit when possible.

6. Are there any upgrades I should consider?

Yes! We can install modern, **lead-free, low-profile models** that offer better performance and durability — ideal for high-usage homes or aging systems. They're more efficient and often easier to maintain long-term.