

Facts About

BACKFLOW PREVENTION INSPECTION FEE (BPIF)

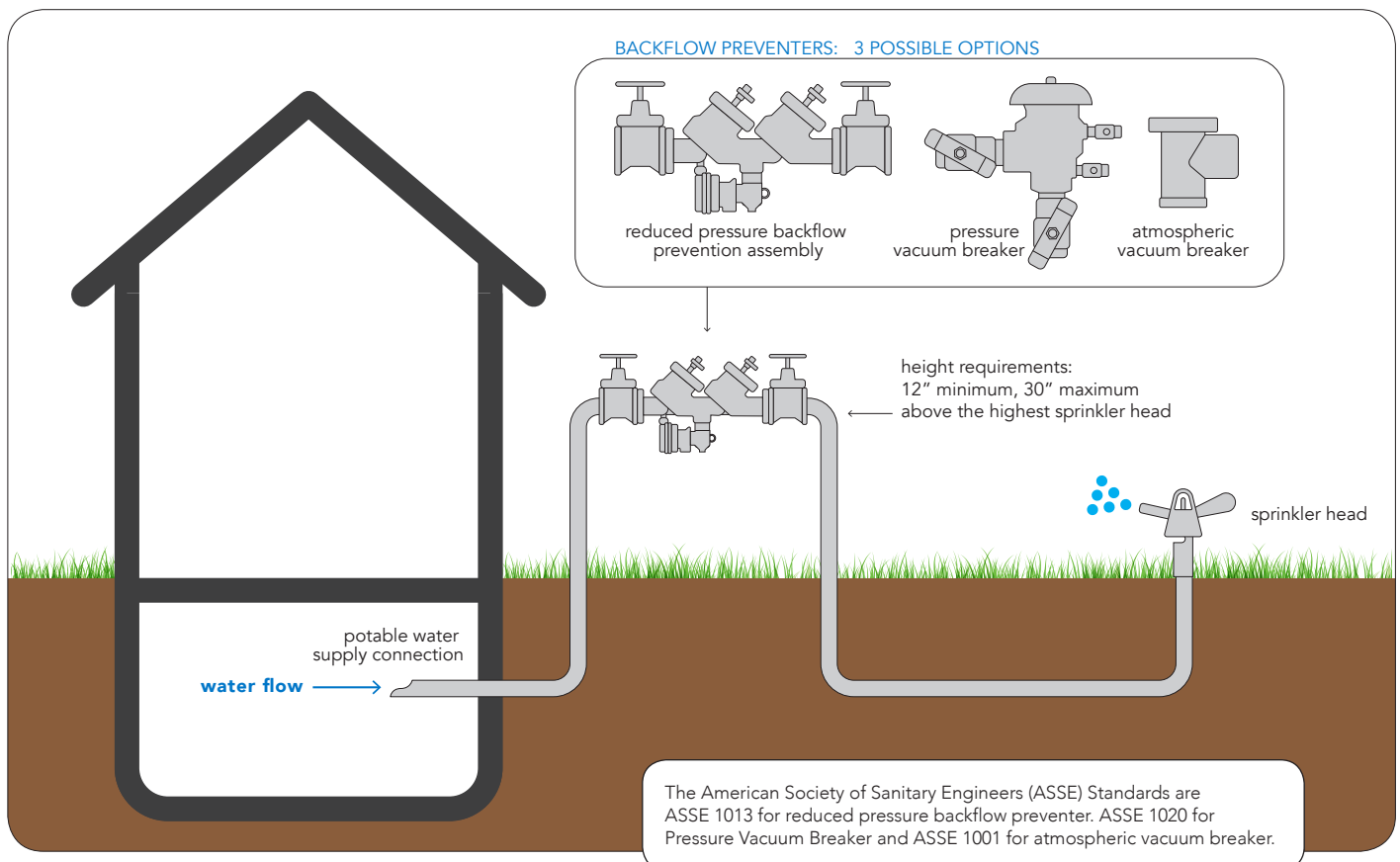
BACKGROUND

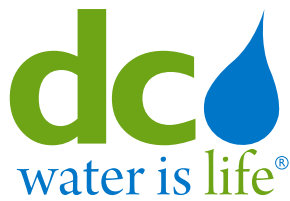
DC Water operations and capital improvements are covered primarily by ratepayers and bond issuances. Certain fees cover the costs of activities, services or equipment, such as permitting, connection or disconnection of service and late fees.

It is important to ensure these fees keep pace with their cost, and that the costs are borne by those who use the services, and not ratepayers in general. To identify the current costs, DC Water performs a Cost of Service study every few years. This study assesses the true cost of service and the level of fees in comparison to other regional partners.

In 2018, DC Water performed the latest **Miscellaneous Fees and Charges Cost of Service Study**, and worked with an outside consultant to help ensure that the proposed fees are reasonable and generally represent the cost of providing the service.

In August 2019, DC Water will collect a new monthly fee from customers with backflow prevention assemblies to support the DC Water Compliance Program and tools that help customers comply with District regulations. Only customers with testable backflow prevention assemblies will be affected by these fees. The monthly fee will be \$6.70 per backflow prevention assembly per customer. There are approximately 3,500 customers with 13,000 assemblies registered in DC Water's database.





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BACKFLOW PREVENTION INSPECTION FEE **continued**

DC Water enforces the proper installation and maintenance of backflow preventers which prevent the possibility of non-potable water contaminating potable drinking water in a building's water system. Points where this can occur and backflow preventers are required by law are lawn irrigation, fire sprinklers, swimming pools, boilers, cooling towers, chillers, and other industrial systems which require water. Both residential (multi-family) and nonresidential customers have backflow prevention assemblies. The larger the building, the more assemblies will likely be present.

District regulation requires that each customer that owns backflow prevention assemblies contact a DC Water-approved contractor for annual inspection, and report that information to DC Water. DC Water maintains the Third Party Portal, an online record system and smartphone application for reporting the installation, maintenance, and testing of backflow preventers on cross-connections. The revenue generated by this fee will help increase the number of inspections of backflow prevention assemblies and site surveys to inspect customer water systems, support maintenance of the online submission and record keeping system, and reduce the risk of contamination of the potable water supply through cross-connections.

Questions about cross-connection control should be directed to the DC Water Compliance Program by telephone at 202-364-3144 (M-F, 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM) or through email at compliance@dcwater.com. For full details on the proposed fees, visit www.dewater.com/fees.

