



Dear Customer;

We are writing you to make you aware of the critical importance of correct installation and maintenance of private irrigation systems. Incorrect installation and lack of maintenance pose a contamination risk not only to the public water system, but are a direct risk to your home drinking water. Such risks include taste and odor issues, chemical and biological contamination, and air in the water. To address these risks the Silver Lake Water & Sewer District (SLWSD) has adopted the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) standards for prevention of contamination due to cross connection. (WAC 246-290-490).

All residential and commercial irrigation systems installed in the Districts service area must meet the DOH and SLWSD minimum requirements for protection of the Public Water System.

There are a few things to consider, whether you are installing a system yourself, or are having it done by a landscape irrigation company:

- You **must** use a “DOH Approved” assembly to prevent water from your sprinkler system flowing back into the public system.
- All backflow assemblies except Atmospheric Vacuum Breakers (AVB’s), AKA Anti-Siphon valves, must be tested by a Washington State Backflow Assembly Tester (BAT) when installed, and annually thereafter.
- **All new systems must meet all of the Districts’ installation requirements.** If you are not sure, or if you have questions, please call me at the Silver Lake Water and Sewer District. I will be glad to assist you with any details you need. Please refer to the SLWSD website for detailed drawings at: www.slwsd.com under: publications, District Standards.
- Have your irrigation contractor provide proof to you that they are **licensed, insured and bonded**. This is required of all contractors doing business in Washington State.
- All new systems must be inspected by SLWSD personnel upon completion.

We do our best to place this information in the hands of all local landscape irrigation installers; but due to the large number of people doing landscape irrigation in the Puget Sound area, it is impossible to reach everyone with this information. It is up to you, the consumer, to make sure this information reaches your installer.

Sincerely,

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