



Important Information Regarding Backflow Prevention Security

The City of Riverside has recently been experiencing an increase of utility metal thefts. Among the items being targeted by thieves are backflow prevention devices made of solid brass.

It is important to keep your backflow prevention device secure from possible vandals or metal thieves. In addition to the cost and nuisance of replacing a stolen backflow device you will be without water until the backflow equipment is replaced, inspected, and certified.

To secure your equipment, help prevent theft and avoid disruption of services you can:

- Paint your valve to hide the brass. It also devalues the metal so it is less desirable to a thief.
- Use shrubs hide a valve from plain sight.
- Enclose your valves in a cage to help protect and secure backflow assemblies from damage, tampering, and theft. Cages should be powder-coated or made of stainless steel for durability and low maintenance, while providing complete access for service work on the assembly.
- Buy locks designed for these devices that are secured below grade with a concrete footing.

Prior to taking protective measures, please refer to the City of Riverside Public Utilities Standard Drawing CWD-616 for side clearance requirements at RiversidePublicUtilities.com/backflow --- or if you need assistance call 951-351-6282.

If your equipment is stolen:

- Call Water Operations staff at 951-351-6282 to provide you with your backflow ID # for the police report in case it is recovered.
- Contact the Riverside Police Department at (951) 353-7941 to file a police report. Filing a report allows us to prosecute your thief when caught.