

Plumbing Solutions – edition 11

Backflow Prevention Requirements

Sub-surface Irrigation systems with root inhibitor dispensing products

SA Water's policy for the management of installation of irrigation practices included compliance with AS/NZS 3500.1:2003.

Containment protection

SA Water requires containment protection at the property boundary or within 1 metre of the water meter. The containment device must equal the identified hazard level for the property. Refer to the position of RPZ-1 in the diagram overleaf.

For systems using root inhibitors, the properties hazard level is identified as high. SA Water requires a reduced pressure zone device (RPZ) backflow prevention valve be installed. There shall be no branch off-takes installed between the water meter and the containment RPZ.

Recycled water services shall be installed so that the drinking water cannot be contaminated and that there is compliant separation between drinking and non-drinking services (Figure 1).

Zone protection

SA Water requires zone protection for branch off-takes that supply hazards within the properties water service. The zone device must equal the identified hazard level for the property. Refer to the position of RPZ-1 in the diagram overleaf.

For systems using root inhibitors, the branch off-takes hazard level is identified as high. SA Water requires a reduced pressure zone device (RPZ) backflow prevention valve be installed.

The drinking water supply shall not be introduced or connected downstream of the zone protection valve.

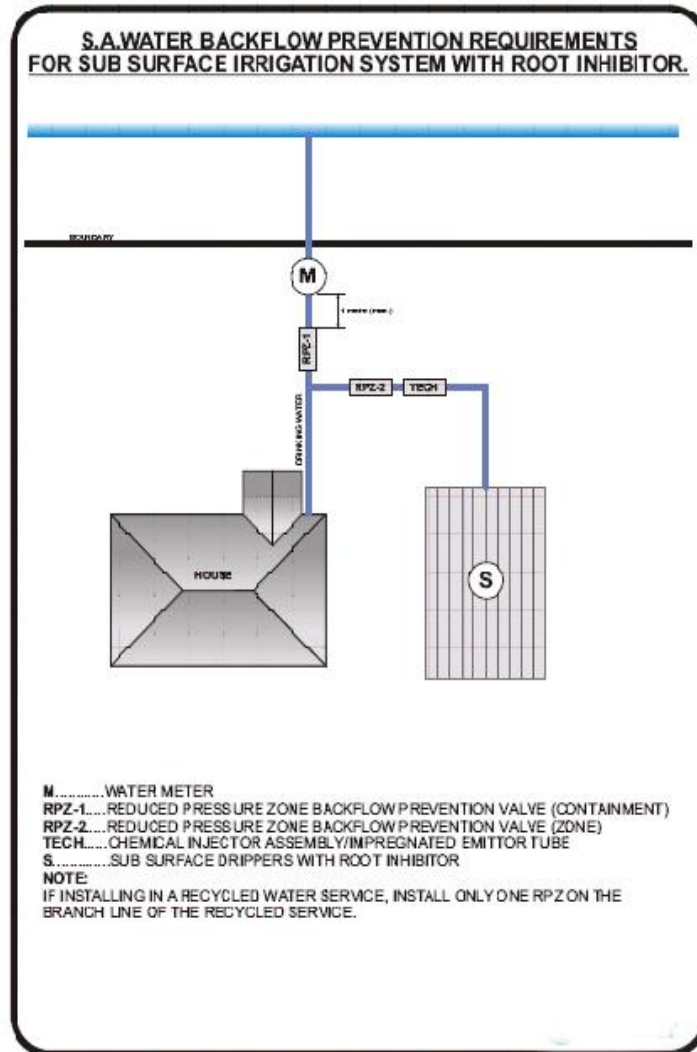
Advisory note: Currently we are aware of two methods/devices which are available to deliver root inhibitor, herbicide chemicals into the irrigation system. These systems deliver the chemical Trifluralin (trade name Treflan):

- A filter style fitting which contains impregnated filter rings housed in the body of the device. The Treflan is released as the water passes through the device
- Emitters impregnated with Treflan are moulded into the subsurface irrigation tube during the manufacturing process. Treflan is then released as water passes through the emitters.

If your irrigation system differs for the two listed about please contact SA Water.

Recycled water services

If installing the same type of sub surface system on a property that is supplied by recycled water, SA Water requires zone RPZ valve protection to be fitted to the branch line only. No containment is required on recycled water services.



More information

If you have queries about backflow prevention or the AS/NZS 3500 National Plumbing Standard contact the Recycled Water Team Leader (08) 7424 1317 or the Senior Backflow Prevention Officer on (08) 7424 1350.

Alternatively, if you would like additional copies of this or other issues of Plumbing Solutions, please contact Plumbooking on (08) 7424 1360 or email plumbooking@sawater.com.au

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