



City of Lawrence

The Flame | April 2020

“We Have Tomorrow — Bright Before Us, Like A Flame.”

Langston Hughes

Schedule Your Annual Backflow Prevention Device Tests

As springtime nears, the City of Lawrence encourages municipal water users with common connections that are prone to backflow to begin to schedule their annual backflow prevention device testing. Common connections that may have a backflow prevention device include:

- Irrigation systems
- Hose connections
- Boilers
- Chemical Processes
- Fire Sprinkler Systems
- Booster Pump Systems

Testing your backflow prevention devices helps ensure a safe municipal water supply. As a community water provider, the City of Lawrence is mandated by State of Kansas Administrative Regulations (K.A.R. 28-15-18f) and the Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) to enforce a Cross Connection Control Program that protects public health and the public water supply.

According to City Code Chapter 19, Article 7, residents are required to do annual testing of backflow preventers to help ensure the safety of the Lawrence water supply and the health of Lawrence residents.

WHAT IS BACKFLOW?

Backflow is a reversal of the intended flow direction of potable water. Backflow can happen in a number of situations, including water main breaks, maintenance, system flushing, high demand or higher consumer pressure due to gravity, pumps or thermal expansion. It can cause contaminants to

possibly enter the public drinking water system.

HOW CAN I PREVENT BACKFLOW?

Many water outlets, such as sinks and bathtubs, maintain an air gap over the fill level to prevent backflow. Certain connections cannot be air gapped and present a potential contamination hazard. These connections are protected by backflow preventers, which have internal seals, springs and moving parts that are subject to deterioration. Therefore, water customers must hire a registered certified tester to test all backflow prevention assemblies annually to ensure they are functioning properly to protect the public water system.

HOW DO I HAVE MY BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLY TESTED?

Visit lawrenceks.org/mso/backflow to find a list of registered certified backflow testers, which is updated monthly. Pricing is reflected on the list for those companies that provided information to the City. Once a certified tester is selected and scheduled, the tester will complete the test and let you know if the assembly passed or if it needs repaired. The property owner will then pay the certified tester and the tester will file the test results with the City.

Where do I go for more information?

Visit the City of Lawrence backflow web page at lawrenceks.org/mso/backflow or call Municipal Services & Operations Customer Service at 785-832-7800.

Code-Compliant Irrigation Backflow Device & Assemblies

Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker (AVB)



Can be used for low or high hazards for non-continuous flow purposes. Usage cannot be more than 12 hours in a 24 hour period. It can have no valves downstream of installation and cannot be subject to backpressure. AVB devices must be installed six inches above the highest point of downstream piping and above grade. This device is not testable.

Double-Check Valve Assembly (DCVA)



A mechanical device consisting of two internally loaded soft seated check valves with positive shut-off valves on both upstream and downstream ends, and properly located test ports. A DCVA is suitable for low hazard applications only. It can be used for either backpressure or backsiphonage. Typical irrigation installation is in a rectangular valve box in the yard.

Pressure Vacuum Breaker (PVB) or Spill-Resistant Breaker (SVB)

Can be used for continuous pressure use in high or low hazard situations. The assemblies must be 12 inches above the highest point of downstream piping and have no backpressure.



Reduced-Pressure Zone Backflow Preventer (RPZ)



An assembly of two independently acting soft seated approved check valves together with a hydraulically operated mechanically independent differential pressure relief valve located between the check valves and below the first check valve. This assembly can be used in high or low hazard continuous pressure situations. It cannot be installed in a pit. This assembly is suitable for backpressure or backsiphonage situations.



K-12 Summer Bus Passes

Riding the bus is a great way to get around Lawrence, and the K-12 Summer Bus Pass is a fun, easy and low-cost way for students to get to their summer activities.

Since the K-12 Student Summer Bus Pass can be used on any Lawrence bus route, it makes it easy to travel around town. Places to visit by riding the bus include the pool and the library as well as shopping and recreation areas. The student bus pass also means freedom and independence for K-12 students, many of whom become proficient at navigating the transit system during the summer and continue to use it during the school year.

The K-12 Summer Bus Pass goes on sale on Wednesday, April 15, and can be purchased at The Merc, Hy-Vee or any Dillons store in Lawrence. They can also be purchased at City Hall and Parks and Recreation facilities, including the Indoor Aquatic Center, Holcom, East Lawrence, Community Building and Sports Pavilion.

The bus pass costs \$10.00. It is good for four months, from May through August 2020, and can be used for unlimited bus rides during that time.

For more information about Lawrence Transit, visit lawrencetransit.org or call (785) 864-4644.



POTHOLE PROBLEMS?

It happens every year. Snow and ice from harsh winter weather wreak havoc on our City streets, forming potholes that plague our residents. Now that weather is getting warmer, City crews are out addressing poor road conditions and filling potholes as fast as they're able.

We need your help!

If you spot a pothole, please report it to the City so it can be added to our list. There are two ways Lawrence residents can contact the City to report a pothole:

- Online: Visit our website and submit an online form: lawrenceks.org/mso/pothole_report_form
- Phone: Call our Municipal Services & Operations Customer Service team at 785-832-7800

Once a pothole location is reported, someone from the Municipal Services & Operations department goes out and evaluates the pothole based on severity and location, as well as other factors.

If it is determined that the pothole is an immediate issue, crews will fix it as soon as possible. If it is in a low-traffic area, or a spot on the road that won't affect traffic too much (i.e. near the side of the road or on the curb), it gets put on the monthly patch list. Ideally it would be taken care of within 30 days, but due to high volume this time of year, it can take longer.

Thank you!

EVERGY OFFERS RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR LAWRENCE RESIDENTS

Evergy is now offering a Solar Subscription program as a renewable energy option for Lawrence residents. With solar subscription, residents can enjoy the convenience of solar without the major financial or infrastructure investment.

Solar Subscription lets residents offset a portion of their average energy usage with solar energy from the solar array in Hutchinson, Kan. This program is great for individuals and small businesses who want to support solar without the major financial or infrastructure investment of installing their own panels. It can also be great for renters.

How does it work?

Through a monthly subscription, residents can offset a portion of their annual energy usage (up to 100%) with solar energy from

Evergy's local solar array.

The solar energy produced from each subscription is fed into the resident's power grid to offset the energy they use. While the solar energy doesn't go directly to each subscriber's home, it offsets traditional energy resources with solar on the resident's behalf.

How much does it cost?

Joining the Solar Subscription program does not lower a resident's energy bill, as the cost for installing and maintaining the solar portion is added into the price.

The average increase for a Solar Subscription customer who enrolls in one share is approximately \$10 to \$12 more a month, but it varies by customer.

What are the benefits?

Evergy notes four perks to the Solar Subscription program:

1. Lock in your price for the term of your participation—up to 20 years.
2. Support renewable energy without the need for a rooftop. Perfect for renters as well as homeowners that don't have the space or sun exposure for solar panels.
3. No install cost or maintenance fees.
4. Moving? No problem. You can take your subscription with you if you move within Evergy service areas. If you move out of the area, you can stop your subscription.

More information is available on the Evergy website: evergy.com/smart-energy/renewable-resources

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Committed to providing excellent city services that enhance the quality of life for the Lawrence community