



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 and 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 (sprinkler) systems installed in the Silver Lake Water District must meet the DOH and the (SLWSD) minimum requirements for protection of the Public Water System.

There are five (5) 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.
- The assembly must be installed properly. This means, for example, that Double Check Valve Assemblies (DCVA’s) must be installed per SLWSD standard details.
- DCVA’s must be tested by a Washington State Backflow Assembly Tester (BAT) when installed, and annually thereafter.
- **All new systems are required to meet all of the above installation requirements.** So 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 provide any details you need.
- Finally, 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.

An attempt is being made to place this information in the hands of all local landscape irrigation installers, however due to the large number of people doing landscape irrigation in the Puget Sound, 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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