

# IRRIGATION SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

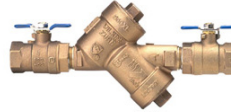
Before an irrigation system can be put into service, the following are required:

**Backflow prevention** – prevents contaminants (fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides, bacteria) from getting into the water system through the sprinkler heads. Must be installed 12 inches above finished grade and upstream of the first sprinkler head. Must be in good working order (no drips or cracks).

RP's & DC's may be used in any application (required when device is below elevation of sprinkler heads)



Reduced Pressure Backflow Prevention Assembly (RP)



Double check valve assembly (DC)

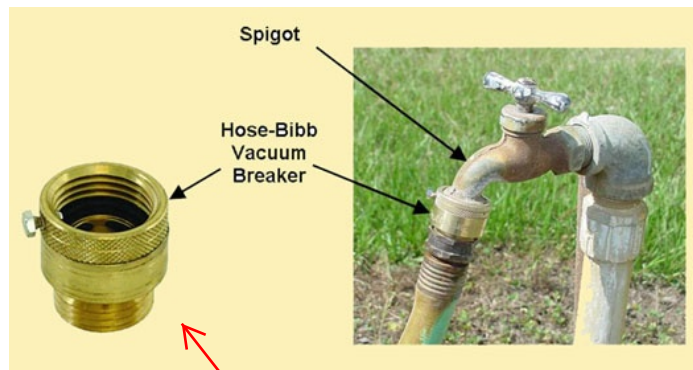


Pressure Vacuum Breaker Assembly (PVB)



Spill-Resistant Pressure Vacuum Breaker Assembly (SVB)

PVBs & SVBs must be installed above the highest sprinkler head elevation



Yard hydrants require a hose bib vacuum breaker

**Rain sensor** – shuts off irrigation system when it's raining. Must be installed in open area & facing upward so it catches rain (not under eaves or overhangs). Typically installed on porch railing, fence or gutter.





## New Kent County Department of Public Utilities IRRIGATION SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS June 2020

Irrigation system requirements are to ensure conformance with the New Kent County Code (<http://www.co.new-kent.va.us/servicesonline.php>) and the County's Water Conservation & Management Plan (<http://www.co.new-kent.va.us/publicutilities/index.php>).

In general, low flow irrigation designs are required. Prior to approving an irrigation system, the following will be required:

### **NEW IRRIGATION SYSTEMS**

Prior to installation, irrigation system design approval by the Department of Public Utilities to include:

- Installer's & Customer/Owner's contact information (company name, address, phone, email)
- A simple site plan, with approximate scale, showing location of approved backflow prevention device, rain sensor and customer owned volume or run time controller, all lines and spray patterns. The plan should show pertinent site features (structures, roads, driveways, sidewalks, etc).
- A copy of the New Kent County Plumbing Permit Application for inspection of the backflow prevention device (contact Building Development at 804 966-9680)
- A system design which can be expected to operate at a flow of 150 gallons per day or less.

### **COMPANION METERS**

In neighborhoods where sewer service is provided, sewer is billed on all water that passes through the household water meter. An irrigation/companion meter may be installed to discount sewer not discharged during outdoor use. It is the customer's or installer's responsibility to connect the irrigation meter to their irrigation system.

Irrigation meters will not be installed until:

- Utility service application is completed & appropriate fees have been paid
- backflow device has been properly installed & permitted
- Irrigation meter box is installed in good condition
- Rain sensor or similar cutoff device is confirmed on the system

If an irrigation meter box is not provided, one may be installed in accordance with the DPU specifications.

Prior to adding an irrigation meter to an existing system, DPU will visually inspect for:

- Properly selected and installed backflow prevention device
- Installation of a rain sensor