



Backflow Assembly Theft Is On The Rise -- Protect Your Assembly

Backflow assembly thefts are increasing at an alarming rate. The rise in the value of scrap metal, along with the current state of the economy, have driven up the incidents of stolen backflow preventers, copper pipe, electrical wire, and many other items that contain these metals. The District recommends that its customers protect their backflow assemblies to avoid a theft from occurring. The cost of replacing these assemblies can be very expensive.



The following precautionary measures are recommended by law enforcement, water purveyors, and plumbing contractors:

- Enclose your backflow assembly(ies) and valve(s) with a protective cage.
- Secure the cage with a tamper-proof lock (a "break-away" lock is easily opened and not recommended). In the event of an emergency, your maintenance crew should have a copy of the lock's key.
- Paint the assembly(ies).
- Post a visible sign with a warning notice, such as: "Theft and/or damage to this unit will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law".
- Camouflage the unit by planting screening landscape approximately one foot from the backflow assembly. The camouflaging will make the unit less visible and will still allow access for necessary maintenance.

Please Note: When installing any protective equipment, it is important that our customers check the District's installation specifications to verify that the assembly will remain in compliance. Visit our website at www.rowlandwater.com and navigate to "Contractors/Developers" for these specifications.