City of Chicago – Department of Water Management (DWM)

BACKFLOW REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRE HYDRANTS FOR GARDEN/FARMS

1. Plumbing contractors must be licensed, bonded, and insured with the City of Chicago.

2. Contractors must obtain a "B" permit for each garden served by the device(s).
   * To apply for a "B" permit, submit a request by email to bpermits@cityofchicago.org.

3. After receiving a "B" permit, the contractor must call Inspectional Services at (312) 744-7017 and schedule an appointment for inspection.

4. For all new backflow installations, a plumbing inspector from DWM must inspect the installation and observe the initial test of the backflow(s).

5. For fire hydrant use, only a full brass body reduced pressure zone (RPZ) is permitted. RPZ must have the ASSE seal (American Society of Sanitary Engineering).

6. Initial testing requirements for backflow devices are as follows:
   * For all backflows, the contractor must perform a direction of flow test; no other test will be accepted.
   *For all RPZ backflow devices, a 3.0 buffer or better is required.

7. Once the initial test is complete, the contractor must complete a City of Chicago-approved test form (typed or printed legibly). All information requested on the form must be provided, including owner and contact information.
   * A copy of the completed test form must be provided to both the plumbing inspector and the owner of the (RPZ) valve.
   * A completed copy of the test form must also be hung on the device. If the form cannot be hung on the devise for safety reasons, the test form must be available on site.

8. All backflow devices must be re-tested annually by a fully licensed cross-connection control device inspector (CCCDI) employed by a plumbing contractor that is licensed, bonded, and insured with the City of Chicago.
   * The re-test report must be submitted electronically to DWM at CCCDICHICAGO.org within 30 days of the device's annual re-testing due date.

   * Inspector is not required to be present on retesting of the RPZ. For any questions contact Tom Lally at (312) 744-7017.