

Public Service Announcement: Protecting Your Backflow Devices

Attention Shareholders:

In recent weeks, we've been alerted to several instances of backflow device thefts. These devices, essential for protecting our water supply from contamination, have become targets for thieves due to their valuable metal components.

What is a Backflow Device?

A backflow device is a mechanical valve assembly dedicated to preventing unapproved or contaminated water from flowing back into the Nuevo Water Company's (NWC) potable water supply. These devices are crucial for maintaining water quality and protecting public health by ensuring that potentially harmful substances do not enter the potable water system.

How to Protect Yourself from Theft:

1. **Lock in an Enclosure:** Enclose the backflow device in a locking enclosure. Remember that these devices must be tested annually, so the tester will need access to your device during that time.
2. **Camouflage:** Use landscaping or protective covers to make your device less visible and accessible but remember to leave at least 24" inches around the device as well as access for backflow tester.
3. **Regular Inspections:** Frequently check your backflow device for any signs of tampering or potential theft.
4. **Paint the Device:** Painted metal is less valuable and can deter theft.

If You Notice Suspicious Activity:

1. **Contact Law Enforcement:** Immediately call 911 and report any theft or suspicious activity to law enforcement.
2. **Inform Nuevo Water Company:** After notifying law enforcement, please inform us at 951-928-1922 or nuevowater@nuevowater.com Your reports help us stay aware and take appropriate measures to support our community.

