

## **PRECAUTIONS FOR YOUR BACKFLOW DEVICE**

Many of our commercial and agricultural customers are required to have a backflow device to protect the public water supply from backsiphonage. The following are some useful tips to help you protect your devices.

Water agencies throughout Southern California have noticed an increase in the frequency of thefts of customers' backflow prevention devices. These valves are targeted because the bodies are primarily bronze, which is easy to sell as scrap metal and brings a high price at scrap yards.

Sadly, the vandals usually cut through the isolation valves which render them useless and necessitate their replacement along with the backflow device. A new backflow device and valves can easily cost a customer hundreds of dollars, and the thief probably gets less than \$10 for scrap.

What can you do to prevent backflow device theft? First, remember that all Rainbow MWD employees and our backflow contractor (Palomar Specialties) will either be in uniform or have an identification badge. If you find someone working on your device that can't provide identification notify law enforcement right away. If your device is located far from your residence, or is otherwise in an isolated area you might want to consider installing a backflow device anti-theft cage. These plastic or metal cages are locked in place making it very difficult to steal the device. It just might save you the inconvenience and cost of having your backflow device stolen.



Backflow Anti-Theft Device

Another problem associated with backflow devices is freezing during winter months. If you live in an area that is prone to freezing temperatures you might want to take a few steps that could save you the expense and hassle of having your device freeze and rupture. Inexpensive insulation like the kind protecting air-conditioning piping will help prevent freezing when the temperature drops. This material is found at most hardware stores. In a pinch even a plastic trash bag wrapped loosely around the assembly will help keep it from freezing.



Insulated Backflow Device

## **Rainbow Investments Are Secure**

Like many of you RMWD has money set aside in investment accounts. Those funds are designated for special projects, such as our reservoir covers or sewer system upgrades. The recent turmoil in the financial markets has us all a bit on edge, but the funds RMWD has invested are safe and have remained stable.

Our investments are in highly rated government and corporate bonds as well as banks protected by FDIC regulations. It is the general policy of the District to hold all investments until maturity to ensure the return on all invested principal dollars. That means that fluctuations in the market have little impact on our return on investment. In fact the recent downturn in the stock market has increased the value of bonds, so the market value of our portfolio is actually higher than our purchase price. RMWD has historically never lost principal or interest due to poorly performing or failed investments.

**RAINBOW  
MUNICIPAL  
WATER  
DISTRICT**

3707 Old Highway 395  
Fallbrook, CA 92029  
760-728-1178  
[www.rainbowmwd.com](http://www.rainbowmwd.com)

**2011  
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**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER  
UNCOVERED FINISHED WATER RESERVOIR VIOLATION  
FOR RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. Although this situation is not an emergency, as our customers you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

Water systems with uncovered finished water reservoirs are required to cover these reservoirs, treat the water from these reservoirs, or be in compliance with a state-approved schedule to cover these reservoirs or provide treatment by April 1, 2009. We failed to meet this requirement.

**What should I do?**

- There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns you should consult with your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care provider about continuing to drink this water. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

**What does this mean?**

***This is not an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified within 24 hours.***

Uncovered water reservoirs are a pathway for contaminants to enter the drinking water supply. Therefore, it is necessary to cover the reservoirs or treat the water coming out of the reservoirs. *Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.*

**What is being done?**

In 2009 we began a comprehensive construction program to address our four uncovered finished water reservoirs. Today two of those reservoirs are covered, and construction has already started on the cover for Morro reservoir which should be in place in the spring of 2012. That leaves Beck reservoir. Beck poses a dilemma because it is a very large reservoir and would be too costly to cover. Accordingly, we plan to construct a new concrete water tank to replace Beck at a nearby site. The grading work has been completed and we will begin construction on the tank itself very soon.

For more information please contact our customer service staff at 760-728-1178.

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not receive this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools and other businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

***This notice is being sent to you by the Rainbow Municipal Water District, State Water System ID# 3710016***

***Date Distributed: September 2011***

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***RMWD offers the option to pay your bill online using a secure website. You can make a one-time payment or set up recurring payments using your credit card/debit card. Electronic billing is available at [rainbowmwd.dpnetbill.com](http://rainbowmwd.dpnetbill.com).***