Why doesn’t the City pay for the testing of my backflow preventer?
A lawn irrigation system is not a required component of our water system. Homeowners who choose to install a lawn irrigation system as a convenience are responsible to assure the backflow preventer is properly installed and maintained in accordance with State laws and regulations. It would be unfair for the City to require homeowners who choose not to have a lawn irrigation system to absorb the financial burden of maintaining your privately owned system.

Why do I need to test my backflow prevention assembly?
Just like any other mechanical device, backflow prevention assemblies are prone to wear and tear, and do break down from time to time. Regular testing is required in order to ensure that your device remains in proper working order.

How often should I test my backflow prevention assembly?
It is recommended that all testable backflow preventers are tested annually, however the City of Rochester Hills is requiring homeowners to provide copies of test reports once every five years. If you are injecting chemicals into your lawn irrigation system, State law requires the backflow preventer to be tested on an annual basis.

Why is HydroCorp inspecting my home?
HydroCrop has been contracted by the City to assist with their Cross Connection Control (CCC) Program. The CCC program includes two parts: Testing of backflow prevention assemblies and on-site inspections. The visiting technician will be conducting a visual inspection of the water use outside of your home (outside spigots, lawn irrigation system, etc.) to identify cross connections that could possibly contaminate your drinking water or the public water supply.

How long does the inspection take?
An average inspection normally takes from 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the size of your lot.

Do I have to be present for the inspection?
No, HydroCorp will not enter your home; however they will need access to your front and back yard.

Who is responsible for completing the repairs if necessary?
If you are the owner of the home being inspected, you are responsible for any needed repairs. Renters may have to refer to their lease agreements in order to determine whether they are responsible for repairs.

Does your inspector carry identification?
All HydroCorp inspectors wear photo ID badges during inspections and are prepared to provide appropriate documentation verifying their identities.
Is this inspection mandatory?
Yes. These inspections are conducted in order to ensure compliance with state regulations to maintain the safety of your drinking water.

What happens if I refuse to have the inspection done or to correct any problems it identifies?
Penalties for refusing to cooperate with inspections and/or refusing to make needed repairs are determined by your local water utility. These typically can include termination of water service, a fine, or both.

I just had my assemblies tested – why are you doing another inspection?
There are two components of a cross connection control program: Testing of backflow prevention assemblies and onsite inspections. It is the responsibility of the assembly’s owner to have backflow prevention assemblies tested periodically by a certified tester. Your local water supplier is responsible for the inspection portion of the program. The inspection is to verify that the proper backflow prevention methods are in place to maintain drinking water safety.

My home has to be inspected, but the house across the street doesn’t have to. Why?
All water customers (residential and non-residential) connected to the public water supply are required to be inspected for cross connections. Most programs strive to ensure that all water customers receive an initial inspection during their first 3-5 years of program implementation.

Can HydroCorp be contracted to correct the violations they identified?
No. We are contracted by your local water authority only to conduct inspections and report our findings.

I’ve never had an inspection before. Why do I need one now?
The City of Rochester Hills has had a CCC program for a number of years, which began with inspections of all of the commercial and industrial accounts. As a natural progression of our program we are now inspecting residential customers as required by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

I received a test notice, but your inspector was just here and said everything was fine.
There are two parts to the Cross Connection Control Program. The first is an on-site inspection by a cross connection control inspector to ensure that the proper backflow prevention devices and assemblies are in place to protect your drinking water. Some of the assemblies the inspector finds or asks you to install are testable assemblies, which are mechanical and can malfunction. The testing notice refers to testing the operation of these backflow prevention assemblies. These tests must be performed by a certified tester.

Is any older, legacy equipment “grandfathered” in?
“Grandfathering” is not typically permitted due to the high importance of maintaining drinking water safety.

Can I request a specific inspection time?
Yes. We just need a name and number so that the inspector can contact you to set up a time that is convenient for you.