



PVB – COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who can install my PVB? You or a contractor of your choice can install the PVB as long as the following installation requirements and other state requirements are met. The PVB must be approved by the utility. The PVB must be installed at least 12” above the highest point of water use on the irrigation or other water system. If any of the installation requirements are a problem for you, contact Marion Utilities.

Where can I get a PVB? The PVBs are available at plumbing supply stores and on-line. To be certain the device is an approved device, contact Marion Utilities.

How much does a PVB cost? The cost varies by the size of the device, the smaller the device generally the lower the cost.

When should I have my backflow prevention device tested? The PVB should be tested at installation and every 12 months thereafter. Most PVBs are on irrigation systems and are tested at the start of the irrigation season.

Who can test my PVB? The devices must be tested by an inspector certified by the State of Indiana. Sometimes the person who installs your device may also be a certified tester, but doesn’t have to be. If you don’t know who to call, Marion Utilities maintains a list of companies who have indicated a desire to assist Marion Utilities’ customers. This list is available on our website, but you do not have to use someone on the list. You may choose the tester of your choice. The cost for testing varies, call around!

What should I expect during the test? First, schedule the test to be conducted during a time when the water can be shut off for several minutes. The tester will test the check valve and air inlet valve with a special test kit. The device must meet certain operating requirements. After completing the test, the tester should give you a test report. State regulations require the tester to get a copy of the test report to you and to Marion Utilities within 30 days. Keep this report for your records.

What if the PVB fails its test? If the device fails a test, a valve may need cleaned or replaced, or the entire device may need replaced. Check with your tester for repair options and costs.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 765-664-2391, extension 128,
between 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.