

ORDINANCE No. 1357

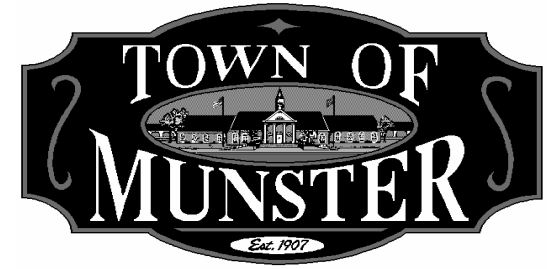
Ordinance No. 1357 Establishing Standards Regarding the Annual Inspection of Backflow Prevention Devices, was inserted into the Munster Municipal Code Sec. 58-80 Backflow Prevention devices. This ordinance states:

A. Whenever a customer desires to utilize a sprinkler system, the customer must install the system with a testable backflow prevention device according to state and federal regulations.

B. Backflow prevention devices, regardless of the type of device, must be inspected on an annual basis by an inspector who is certified by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Proof of inspection must be provided to the Town. Failure to comply with an annual inspection of the backflow prevention device may include compensatory damages in accordance with the schedule of fees and include turning off water service.

The Town thanks each of the Munster residents for doing his or her part to comply with these environmental standards.

Doing your part ensures the Town of Munster will be able to maintain a reliable source of drinking water for the entire community.



**TOWN OF
MUNSTER**
Munster Water
Department

Tel. 219.836.6970 or
836.6971



New Annual Inspection Required for Sprinkler Systems

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) mandated that all sprinkler systems meet the national standard for regular inspection of backflow prevention devices. A backflow prevention device is installed as part of a sprinkler system to prevent any water used from seeping back into the water supply.

The Town of Munster is doing its part to ensure that residents abide by IDEM standards which require private owners who have the capability to sprinkle their lawns to conduct an annual inspection of the backflow prevention device in compliance with State and Federal standards.

Those residents who sprinkle their lawn or maintain a sprinkler system must comply with the annual inspection program on a yearly basis. In order to bring everyone within the Town of Munster in compliance with this policy, a three-phase effort will be utilized which has a final compliance date of September 30, 2010.

- The Town developed a three-phase plan to reach compliance. Residents with separate accounts for sprinkler systems must comply with the regulations by September 2008.
- Residents with sprinkler systems but without a separate billing account must comply by September 2009.

- The final phase will involve a visual inspection of the town during the summer of 2010 to ensure compliance.

Any sprinkler system discovered after September 2010, without annual inspection of the backflow prevention device will be subject to fines and disconnection of water service. The Munster Water Department will furnish details to affected users.

What do I need?

If you sprinkle your lawn or have a sprinkler system that you are not using, you should continue to read this notice, as you are subject to compliance. If you do not have a sprinkler system, you do not have a backflow prevention device and do not need to worry about this program.

When should I conduct this inspection?

In order to get the best pricing, we would suggest that you have your system inspected the same time it is being serviced. You may have a certified inspector test the backflow prevention device prior to turning on your sprinkler system or as the last exercise prior to winterizing the sprinkler system.

Who should conduct these inspections?

IDEM requires a certified inspector to complete the annual inspection of the backflow prevention device. These are persons, often plumbers or irrigation operators, who are the same persons who

maintain sprinklers for residents with the Town.

The Town of Munster has a full list of contractors who are licensed by the Town on an annual basis. While you must find a person who is licensed by IDEM to conduct this test, this person must also be registered by the Town to assure that they are properly licensed and bonded. If you are unsure as to whether or not a particular contractor is licensed in this area, please contact the Community Development Office at 836-6990.

Failure to Comply

Failing to conduct an annual inspection on your backflow prevention device puts yourself and the Town at risk. The Town may shut off your water if you sprinkle your lawn but have not submitted an annual inspection certification for each calendar year. The Town will warn you via your monthly water bill or another method if you are at risk for losing water service for non-compliance with this new policy.

Disconnecting a System

If you have a sprinkling system but do not wish to utilize it any longer, you may have a plumber cap off the system. As long as this is done by September 30, 2010, the Town will allow the plumber to attain a no-fee permit from the Building Department.