



## Ashborough East Architectural Review Board

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### Camouflaging Backflow Preventers in Ashborough East Front Yards

The naturalistic appearance of front yards in Ashborough East gives our community distinctive character and enhances property values. The Ashborough East Covenants and Bylaws are in place so that this distinctive character can be maintained.

Since 1998, the Summerville CPW has required that each property which has an in-ground sprinkler system be equipped with a “backflow preventer”. This device prevents the reverse flow of water into the CPW water supply system. It must be located at a high point in the water supply line from the CPW main to the sprinkler system. In many cases, this device must be located above ground in front yards. (More information on these devices is available from the CPW website “Backflow Department” page, using this link: [http://www.summervillecpw.com/index.asp?Type=B\\_BASIC&SEC={DB636051-20E6-4C70-A502-438866B866EB}&DE=](http://www.summervillecpw.com/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={DB636051-20E6-4C70-A502-438866B866EB}&DE=))

If this is the case with your property, the backflow preventer should be painted, and screened or camouflaged from view and in order to blend in with surrounding landscape in compliance with the intent of our Covenants. This can be accomplished by following these guidelines:

1. **PAINTING:** All reflective glare from copper or metal piping or components should be minimized by using non-glare satin or flat black or dark brown paint (not green) to paint them so as to make them blend in with the surrounding landscape.
2. **INSULATION:** Any insulation placed around the piping should not have any reflective or glossy surfaces, and should be satin or flat black or dark brown (not green). Insulation should not have an industrial look such as a square or angular shape as this will clash with the naturalistic character of front lawns in our community.
3. **SCREENING:** All backflow preventers and piping should be screened from view by either of the following methods:
  - a. Plantings, consisting of low year-round green bushes, so that the backflow preventers and piping are not visible when looking at your property from the street. This option is preferred and is usually the lowest cost option. Examples would include low-growing holly or dwarf gardenia bushes or junipers.
  - b. Dark-colored brown or dark gray naturalistic-looking artificial rock covers which have a satin or flat naturalistic finish and fit over backflow preventer piping. Light-colored gray artificial rock covers are discouraged as they tend to stand out rather than blend in with the surrounding landscape.
    - i. There are a number of companies selling these covers via the Internet, and can be found by using your Google or other search engine to search for “artificial landscape rocks” or similar descriptive phrases.
    - ii. Choose carefully to select the cover which is the proper size and best blends in with your landscaping, as these covers can be expensive and may have a restocking fee if returned.
4. **PROHIBITIONS:** Specifically prohibited are covers which are industrial in appearance, inverted plastic storage bins of any color, garbage cans, or any glossy plastic covering.

Your co-operation in maintaining the naturalistic character of front yards in Ashborough East is appreciated.

*Approved by the Board of Directors 2-19-09*