

Sewer Backflow Valves

What are Sewer Backflow Valves?

During a large storm event, a building could be at risk of flooding from backups from the storm and/or sanitary sewer systems that connect the property to the municipal system on the street. The back-ups could be due to the sewer pipes not having enough capacity or due to high water levels in the watercourse where the storm sewer system ultimately discharges.

Sewer backflow valves are installed on the storm and/or sanitary pipes that connect a building to the municipal sewer systems. The valves prevent flows from backing up into a building and causing flood damages. They are normally in the open position to allow storm and sanitary flows to drain freely but automatically close when the sewers begin to back up into the building.

Where can they be installed?

Backflow valves are recommended if there is a risk of backflow into a building from a storm or sanitary sewer. They can be installed where the storm and/or sanitary drains exit the building. They are most commonly installed inside the building but can be installed outside the building.

What else should you know about Sewer Backflow Valves?

Periodic maintenance and testing are required to maintain functionality.

Storm and/or sanitary drainage will not drain from the building when the valve is closed. Backflow valves may not be appropriate or additional measures such as pumps may be required if roof drains are connected to the building's internal storm sewer system or if sanitary flows cannot be prevented over a prolonged period of backflow conditions in the sanitary sewer leading from the building.

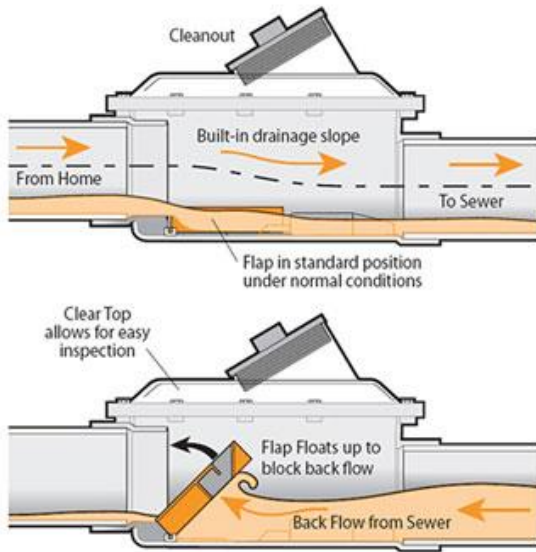
Cost Range

\$1000 to \$10,000 per valve, depending on the size of the drain and ease of access for installation.

[The City of Markham's Private Plumbing Protection Rebate Program](#) provides property owners rebates of up to \$2,000 for backwater valves. The rebate program has been extended to April 2022.

What type of protection do they provide?

Sewer Backflow Valves provide Passive Dry protection.



A Backflow Valve during normal and backflow conditions

(source: Markham.ca, image courtesy of Square One Insurance Services)