



THE SAFE WATER AUTHORITY®

844-493-7641 | hydrocorpinc.com

Authorized Contractor



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. My irrigation system (or dock line, etc.) was installed by an irrigation company. Why isn't it compliant with Delaware regulations?

Delaware plumbing regulations have been changed to protect drinking water supplies from contamination. Although your system may have been compliant when it was installed, it doesn't meet current standards and must be made compliant.

2. Do back flow prevention devices for irrigation systems need to be tested periodically? How often? By whom?

Back flow prevention devices for irrigation systems (and dock water supply pipes, etc.) must be tested annually. These tests must be conducted by a licensed plumber who is also specifically certified to conduct such testing. We suggest contracting with such a plumber to test your system and provide a test certificate every spring when they turn it on. An irrigation company may or may not have a qualified licensed plumber on its staff. State law requires QPHA to collect formal certificates of installation and testing from owners once this work is completed.

3. How do I know what kind of device is appropriate for my property's situation? For instance, my irrigation system (or dock line, etc.) gets water from a single line coming from inside the house and serving all the irrigation branches. Is it OK to install a single back flow prevention device to protect the entire irrigation system? Where should it be installed?

There are several types of back flow prevention devices for different situations, so consult a licensed plumber. These devices must be tested annually by a licensed plumber who is also specifically certified to conduct such testing (not merely by an irrigation specialist), and provide a test certificate.

4. My property has a "yard hydrant." What should I do?

None of the yard hydrants at Quillen's Point comply with current Delaware regulations because they include a "weep hole" deep underground through which contamination could threaten the community water supply. They must be replaced or removed by a licensed plumber. Compliant yard hydrants are expensive, so removal may be the best option.



5. What's the deadline for compliance with these new regulations?

QPHA has set **Saturday, May 31, 2025** as the deadline for compliance. This gives owners ample time to arrange for installations by licensed plumbers before shutting down irrigation systems for the winter. Installations must be undertaken by a licensed plumber who is also specifically certified to conduct testing. We suggest contracting with such a plumber to test your system and provide a test certificate every spring when they turn it on. State law requires QPHA to collect formal certificates of installation and testing from owners once this work is completed. An irrigation company may or may not have a qualified licensed plumber on its staff.

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continued

6. If a licensed and certified plumber makes changes the plumber assures me are adequately complying with Delaware water regulations, do I have to "double check" or get confirmation from HydroCorp or QPHA?

No. Neither HydroCorp nor QPHA enforces Delaware law. Properly licensed and certified plumbers are required by their licenses to comply with Delaware regulations. HydroCorp's role in these inspections is to assess the current state of QP owners' exterior plumbing, and, together with QPHA, to alert QP owners if installed equipment is non-compliant. It is up to owners to follow the law, including using licensed plumbers who are also specifically certified to conduct testing and provide a testing certificate. State law requires QPHA to collect formal certificates of installation and testing from owners once this work is completed.

7. Is there a resource where I can read about or review the state laws and regulations concerning the changes needed to our community's water system?

Quillen's Point owners can find a link to the pertinent Delaware laws and regulations about the cross-connection control program on the quillenspoint.org website [here](#). Also on that page, owners will find a variety of other resources regarding the cross-connection control program. At quillenspoint.org/water, QP owners may also view a wider array of information about the Quillen's Point water system, beyond the cross-connection control program. QP owners must log in to the website to access those materials.

8. How does HydroCorp know I am not compliant since they only inspected the outside of my property? What if I already have a back flow prevention device on my water line inside my home?

Most typical indoor plumbing installations are designed to prevent back flow. Exterior fixtures such as lawn irrigation systems and dock water supply lines are considered "high risk", and therefore need to be remediated. HydroCorp's findings were based exclusively on external inspections. Property owners who feel they have a compliant back flow device should consult a licensed plumber who is also specifically certified to inspect and conduct certified back flow testing for back flow prevention devices, to ensure compliance with Delaware law. (see question 3). State law requires QPHA to collect formal certificates of installation and testing from owners.

9. What happens if I choose not to comply with current Delaware plumbing codes in my home's outdoor water systems?

The goal of this process is to protect our community's entire drinking water supply from contamination. Delaware law gives public water systems, like Quillen's Point's, authority to protect the community against contamination by shutting off the water supply to properties which are not compliant with public safety regulations. Quillen's Point has no desire to take this step, but could be forced to do so if a property remains non-compliant.