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Installation Guideline for Backflow Preventers

Atmospheric vacuum breakers shall be located beyond the last control valve prior to the first outlet at an elevation of 6' higher than any outlet or tank rim to be served. It shall not be subject to back pressure or continuous operating pressure for more than twelve hours duration nor shall it be installed in such a fashion that it will be subject to corrosion which will render it inoperative.

Reduced Pressure Principle Assemblies (more commonly referred to as RPZ's or RPD's) and the Backflow Preventer with Intermediate Atmospheric Vent (Watts 9D) shall be installed as follows: Locate in a room that well lighted, drained by gravity and not subject to flooding. With the exception of the manufacturer's air gap assemblies, no direct connection to the device for the purpose of drainage is permitted because it negates the inherent protection afforded by the air gap at the relief valve discharge port. An acceptable alternative is to use a funnel located below the relief valve discharge port such that the funnel rim is two (2) discharge port diameters lower than the discharge port. i.e. an acceptable air gap. Finally, each RPD shall be easily accessible for repair, testing and inspection. This includes that the device shall not be located any than 4 ½ feet from the floor and it shall have a minimum of 12 inches of open space around the entire device.

The devices and methods of backflow prevention specified in the regulations are the minimum protection required. Unless specifically prohibited, and the owner can install a different device that the one required by regulations, if it provided equivalent or better protection.