

## Lawn Sprinkler Handout

The MN State Plumbing Code requires an approved type of backflow prevention device to be installed on all lawn sprinkler systems. This device must be installed by a licensed plumber. This requirement is in place to prevent backflow contamination of your water and the City's public water system.

In order to locate and inspect these systems, the City of St. Francis requires a permit for all lawn irrigation systems. Provide the approved type of backflow preventer information when applying for the permit. The City does not need a layout of the system. A licensed plumber must install the backflow prevention device, but the homeowner can choose to install the rest of the home irrigation system under a separate permit.

Any irrigation system that contains pumps or injectors for the addition of chemicals and/or fertilizers is considered a greater contamination hazard and requires a greater level of protection. All system designs shall meet Minnesota Plumbing Code 4715.1900 and related sections for potable water protection. Contact City inspection staff or a licensed plumber for further details.

As per Minnesota State Statute 103G.298, all automatically operated landscape irrigation systems shall have furnished and installed technology that inhibits or interrupts the operation of the irrigation system during periods of sufficient moisture. (i.e. Rain Sensor).

The homeowner is responsible for the backflow prevention device being tested and inspected every year to ensure the device is operating correctly. The inspection must be completed by a certified tester or licensed plumber.

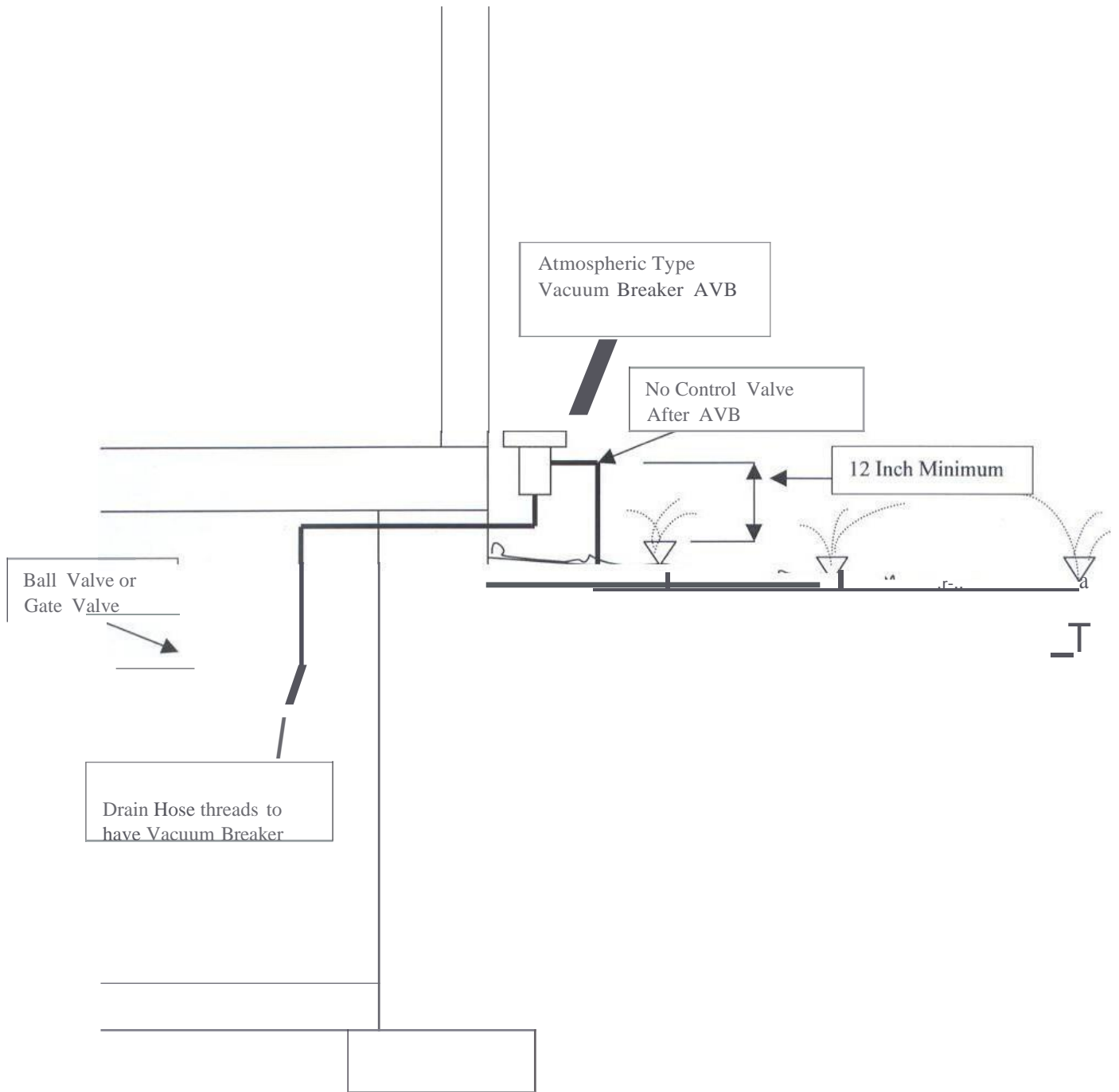


**Call two  
working days  
before you dig**

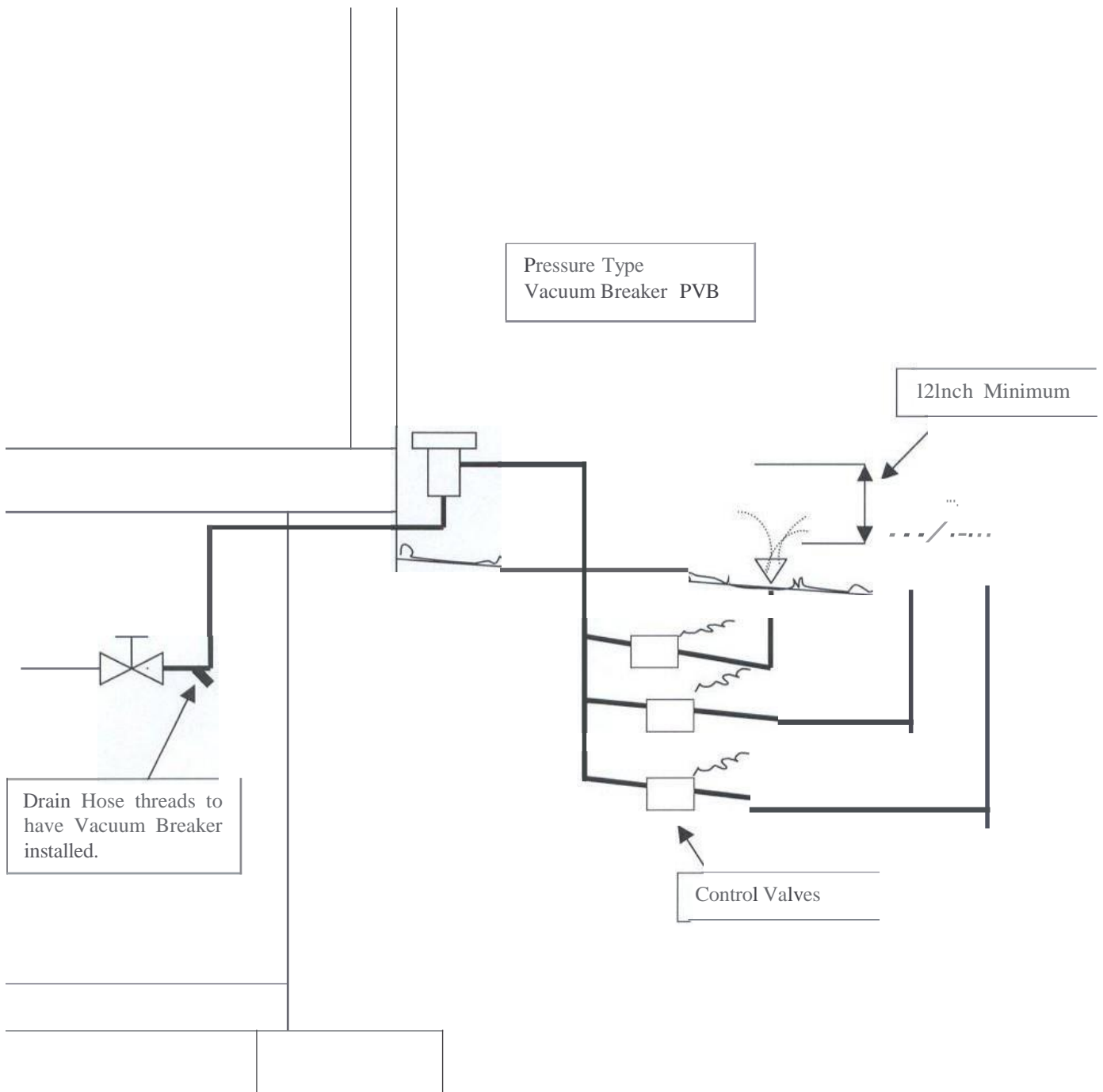
- Electric
- Gas-Oil-Steam
- Communications / CATV
- Water
- Reclaimed Water, Irrigation
- Sewer
- Temporary Survey Markings
- Proposed Excavation

**GOPHER STATE ONE CALL**

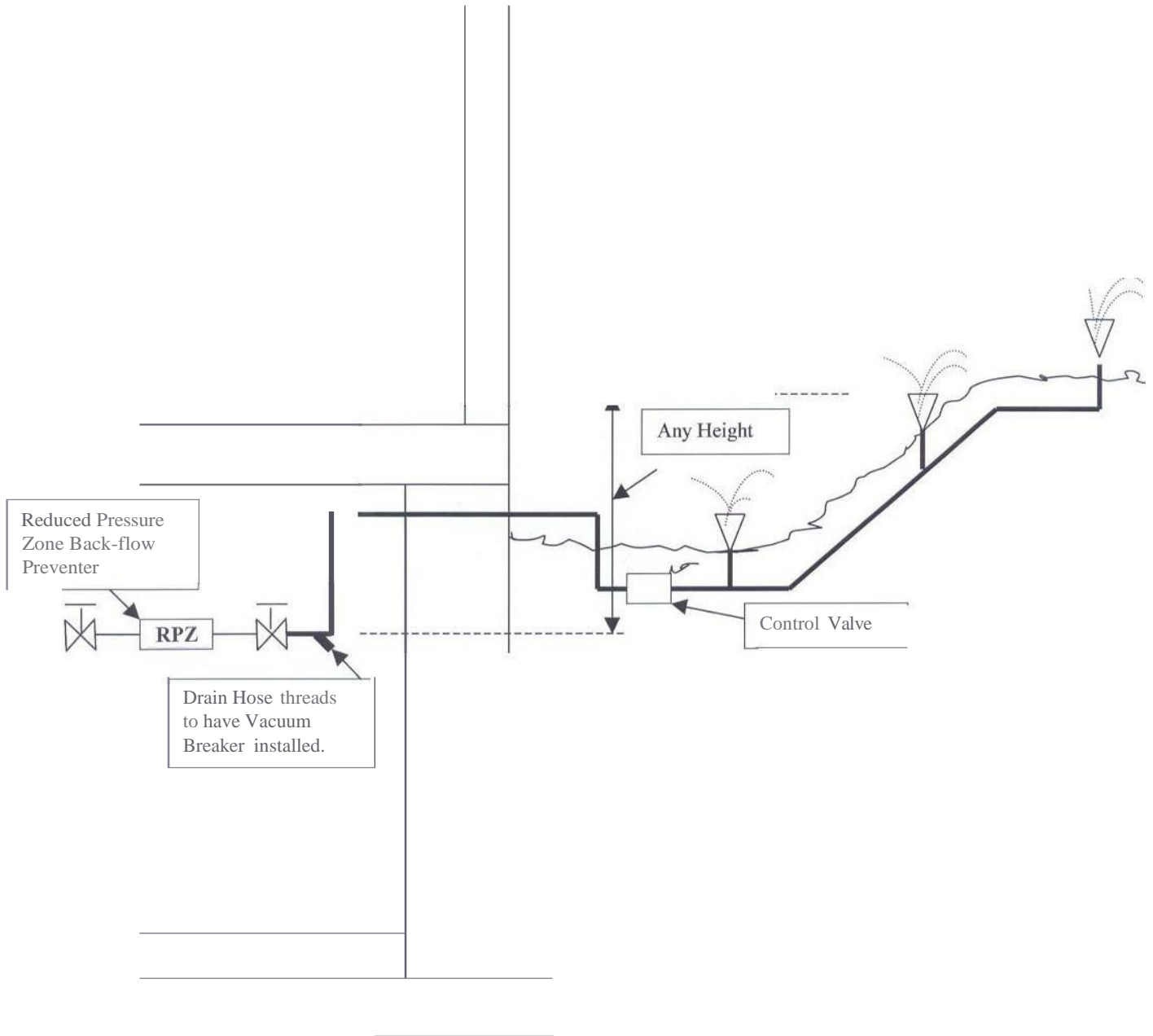
Twin City Area **651-454-0002** MN Toll Free **800-252-1166**  
[www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org)



Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker on lawn sprinkler system must be installed at least 12 inches above highest sprinkler outlet and on the non-pressure side of the last control valve.



Pressure Vacuum Breaker on lawn sprinkler system must be installed at least 12 inches above highest sprinkler outlet and may be subject to constant static pressure. Note: Per MN Plumbing Code Parts 603.5.23 through 603.5.23.4, the backflow prevention device must be inspected every year by a certified tester or licensed plumber.



A Reduced Pressure Zone type back-flow preventer must be installed on lawn sprinkler systems when any sprinkler outlet is higher than the back-flow preventer or when the system is designed to add chemicals or fertilizers. (May be subject to constant static pressure, back pressure, and back syphonage.) Use RPZ as last back-flow preventer if AVB-PVB will not work. Contractors and homeowners installing RPZ back-flow preventers in the City of St. Francis are required to inform the Building Official and provide details of their testing and inspection program