



# Don't be the Victim of Metal Theft

Over the past year, the number of stolen backflow preventer valves has increased dramatically due to the high value of scrap copper and brass. The thief walks away with \$40 to \$100 worth of metal; **it costs about \$1,500 for the owner to replace the valve.**

## What You Can Do

- Try using the **A.R.I. RP-500 Plastic Backflow Preventer**. These devices range in sizes from  $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 2". They aren't as valuable because they are made with less brass.
- **Paint the valves and exposed copper a blue color.** Do not paint over the serial numbers. Try Rust-Oleum High Performance Enamel Paint color: 7524838. This step helps police identify stolen metal and may help deter thieves from having to spend the extra time to strip off the paint.
- **Install a cage around the valve** and use a high-quality lock. Check the lock. The "hockey puck"-style locks seem to be the best performers. Remember, a little money now can save you a lot later.
- **Post a visible warning sign** mentioning security measures and the threat of prosecution.

## What is a Backflow Preventer Anyway?

A mandatory device installed on the service line that leads into a building or for landscape irrigation, it prevents water from flowing back into the city's distribution system. It is often contained in small steel cages and found outside of buildings, usually in a landscaped area near a water meter box. They are typically the responsibility of the building or business owner.



For more information about backflow prevention valves, call the Public Works-Utilities Department at **623.773.8444**.



**City of Peoria**  
PUBLIC WORKS-UTILITIES

If you have any information or questions regarding these thefts, contact the Peoria Police Department at **623.773.8311**