

Above Grade Installations in Protective Enclosures

An above grade installation is generally necessary to provide gravity drainage from RPZA. At homes for which access to the supply line as it enters the home is too restricted and/or splits to accommodate multiple uses, this type of installation configuration is also appropriate for residential dual check valves. Note that these enclosures should be located within ten (10) feet of the property line and must be sized to include a ball valve on either side of the backflow preventer to facilitate replacement.

Additional benefits of improved access and enhanced safety are also realized with an above grade installation. Two companies, "Hot Box" and "Hydrocowl", have designed prefabricated insulated enclosures that provide heat, gravity drainage and removable access panels for servicing and testing. As an alternate, wood frame, fiberglass, steel, masonry or precast concrete structures may be utilized.

All protective enclosures shall be designed:

- With a floor elevation that is at least 6 inches above finished grade.
- To provide adequate clearances around the device to access the test cocks, shutoff valves, check valves and relief valves.
- With electric heaters or heat trace wire for any water service used year round (note that water service will need to be shut off at the curb stop to prevent freezing if the house is drained seasonally and not heated).
- With provisions for natural or artificial light.
- With full flow gravity drains according to the drainage requirements.