BACKFLOW TESTERS — GUIDE

What a backflow test costs

Use a dated US price range and a scope checklist to compare written quotes.

Updated November 10, 2026

A published range can help you prepare a budget. It does not tell you what a tester will charge at your property. HomeGuide's article by Jennifer Carlson, dated 2024-09-30 and fetched 2026-11-10, gives a US backflow test range of USD $30 to $300 per device. Its table gives a national average of USD $165. These are HomeGuide's figures, not prices collected by this directory.

Use the range with care

The article is a dated national consumer estimate. It is not a local offer or a Canadian price survey. It does not establish a fee that your utility or a tester must accept. A large fire assembly, difficult access or a failed assembly can require a different scope. Get a current written quote for the actual equipment.

HomeGuide lists labour, location, city submission fees, travel, cleaning and repairs among cost factors. It also notes that repair work and retesting can increase the bill. Ask each provider to split those items out. Do not compare a test-only quote with a package that includes filing and a return visit.

Send the same request to each tester

Use this text: “Please quote testing for the assemblies in the attached inventory. The utility notice and deadline are attached. State which individual will perform the test. Confirm that the utility accepts their reports. Please show the test charge, travel, portal or filing charge, tax and any retest charge separately.”

Attach the nameplate photos, location and access notes. Ask whether the price covers each assembly listed or only a site visit. Ask how a missed appointment or inaccessible shutoff changes the price. Request an answer in the currency you will pay.

Agree what happens after a failure

Ask the tester to report the failed component and proposed work before doing repairs outside the agreed scope. Keep repair permission separate from test permission. Request an itemised price for labour, parts, return travel and retest. Ask who will submit the final result.

Do not use a low test price as evidence of current certification. The directory's plan prices pay for listing features. They are unrelated to what a tester charges a property owner.

Keep a quote comparison sheet

Use columns for company, named tester, utility acceptance, equipment covered, test fee, filing fee, travel, tax, repair approval process and total. Leave unknown amounts blank and ask for

them. Keep the date and currency with every quote. For a Canadian property, request local CAD quotes rather than converting the US consumer range.

Sources

All sources below were fetched on 2026-11-10. Dates beside titles identify publication, revision or access dates. This guide is information for planning. Confirm the current requirements with your water utility.

- Jennifer Carlson, HomeGuide, How Much Does Backflow Testing Cost?, 2024-09-30, accessed 2026-11-10.

Frequently asked questions

Is the published range a quote?

No. HomeGuide published the cited US range on 2024-09-30. Ask for a current quote for your equipment and location.

Does paying the test bill close the notice?

Ask for the report and confirmation of utility acceptance. Keep these with the invoice.