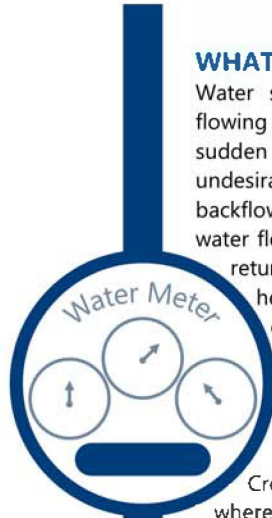


Be in the **KNOW** about **BACKFLOW**



WHAT IS BACKFLOW?

Water systems depend on water pressure to keep water flowing in the proper direction through the pipes. However, a sudden or unexpected change in water pressure can cause an undesirable reversal in the normal flow of water. This is called backflow. During a backflow event, potentially non-potable water flows backwards from the consumer's water system and returns to the public water supply, creating a possible health risk. For example, soapy water or other cleaning compounds can backflow through a hose submerged in a laundry basin.

WHAT IS A CROSS CONNECTION?

Cross connections are locations within the piping system where possible backflow can occur if a pressure differential exists. It is a point in the water system where a contaminant or non-potable water from the consumer's water system can potentially enter the public water supply. Common cross connections for residential properties include lawn irrigation

BACKFLOW

systems, garden hose connections to chemical solution aspirators, hose bibs, swimming pools and private wells. Common cross connections for commercial properties include fire sprinklers, boilers, chillers, chemical mixing tanks, pressure pumps as well as lawn irrigation systems.

WHAT IS A BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE?

A backflow prevention device is a mechanical assembly installed in the water line to prevent backflow from occurring at cross connections. It ensures that a one-way system of flow is maintained and thus protects the public water supply. Backflow prevention devices are installed between the consumer's water meter and the first branch line in their private plumbing.

DOs

- Keep the end of hoses off the ground and clear of all possible contaminants
- Install hose bib vacuum breakers on all spigots (both indoor and outdoor)
- Hire a licensed plumber or contractor to install an approved backflow device on an underground lawn irrigation system
- Have each backflow device tested annually by a certified backflow tester
- Make sure toilets have anti-siphon ballcock assemblies
- Have your plumbing system surveyed for cross connections
- Contact the District if you see any suspicious or unauthorized use of a fire hydrant

DON'Ts

- Submerge hoses in buckets, sinks, tubs, swimming pools, ponds or standing water
- Use spray attachments (such as chemical solution aspirators to fertilize lawn and shrubs) without a backflow prevention device such as a hose bib vacuum breaker
- Create a cross connection between an auxiliary water system (well, cistern, body of water, etc) and your water system
- Use a hose to unplug blocked toilets or sewer pipes

