

Cross Connection & Backflow Prevention

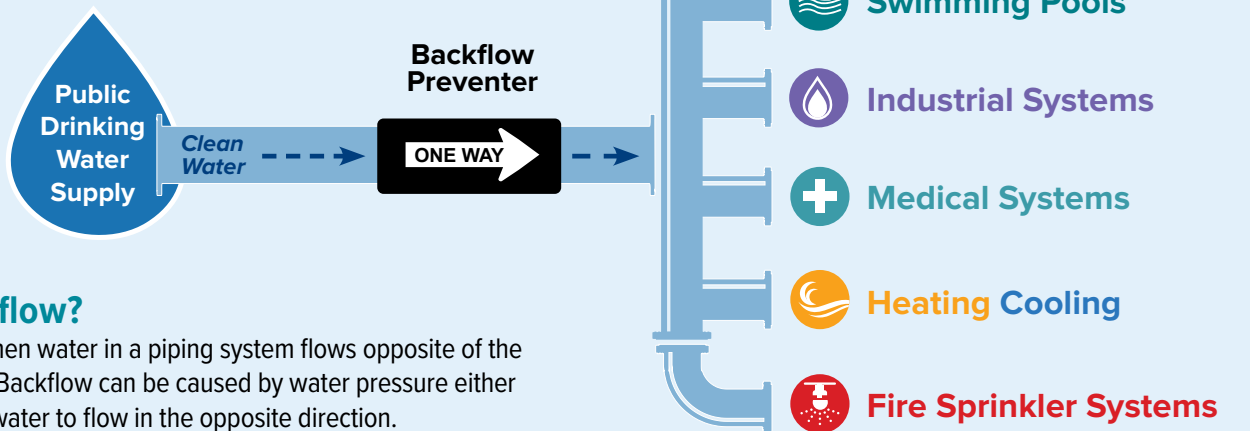
Customers are required to have their backflow prevention devices tested each year by June 1.



We work hard to supply you with safe, clean drinking water. With an understanding of the hazards associated with cross-connections and backflow, you can help us protect our drinking water.

Backflow Prevention Devices

keep contaminants from flowing back into the drinking water supply.



What is backflow?

Backflow occurs when water in a piping system flows opposite of the direction it should. Backflow can be caused by water pressure either pushing or pulling water to flow in the opposite direction.

What is a cross connection?

A cross connection is a permanent or temporary connection between potable drinking water and anything which can pollute or contaminate the water supply. For example, without backflow protection, attaching a fertilizer sprayer to a garden hose or even placing your hose in a soap bucket for car washing can create a cross connection and possible health hazards.



How can cross connections and backflow affect my drinking water?

Examples

💧 **Washington**
85
People



were affected by the backflow of water from an auxiliary well source into the public water system.

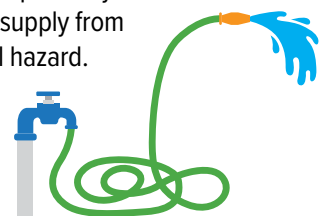
💧 **California**
Bacteriological Contamination



caused by a defective lawn sprinkler valve which allowed surface water to be siphoned into water distribution system.

What is the most common type of cross connection found?

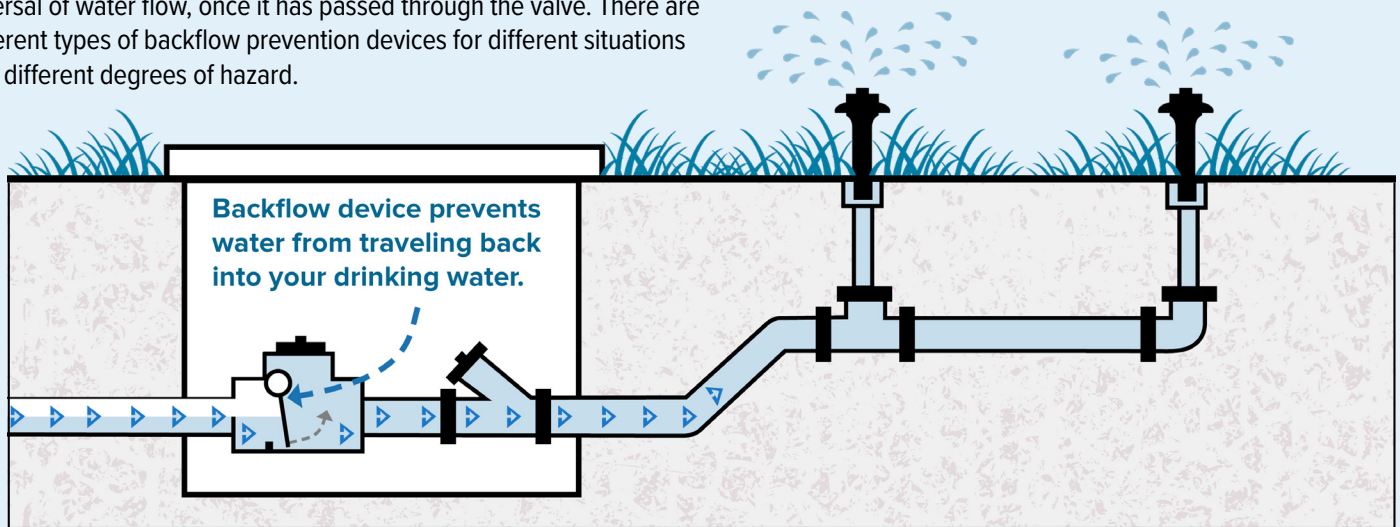
The garden hose is the most common cross connection. When used for cleaning drains or applying landscape chemicals, connected to pressure washers, or just left lying where drainage accumulates, garden hoses create a cross connection; A hose connection backflow preventer can protect your home water supply from this potential hazard.



Preventing Backflow

What is a backflow prevention device?

A backflow prevention device is a mechanical valve that prevents the reversal of water flow, once it has passed through the valve. There are different types of backflow prevention devices for different situations and different degrees of hazard.



Frequently Asked Questions

When is a backflow prevention device required?

Anytime a connection to the water system is made, the City's Permit Center should be contacted to determine backflow prevention requirements.

Examples

A backflow prevention device may be required if you have a:

- ◆ Lawn irrigation system
- ◆ Fire Sprinkler System
- ◆ Water feature: ornamental fountain or fish pond
- ◆ Swimming pool, spa, or hot tub
- ◆ Solar heating system
- ◆ Well

City code prohibits any type of cross connection which could endanger the water system. Cross connections are regulated by both the Oregon Health Authority and the City of Tigard.

Who can install a backflow prevention assembly?

The property owner, a licensed plumber, or a landscape contractor licensed to install backflow prevention devices. A plumbing permit is required.

Why do I have to install a backflow assembly on my lawn sprinkler system?

A sprinkler system is a non-potable water use and requires protection from backflow. The water in these systems can become contaminated by lawn chemicals, animal waste, or the water can become stagnant.



Does my backflow assembly need to be tested?

Yes. State rules requires that all backflow prevention assemblies must be tested at least annually and immediately following any repair, maintenance, or relocation. Assemblies that repeatedly fail may require more frequent testing or replacement.

What happens if I do not get my backflow assembly tested by its compliance date?

We send two notification letters regarding annual backflow testing requirements. If your test results are not received after the 60-day compliance period, you will receive a 72-hour notice for service disconnection. After 72-hours, if we have not received confirmation from a tester that the assembly is scheduled to be tested, water service to the property will be disconnected.

Who can I contact for more information?

Hung Nguyen, Cross Connection Specialist
503-718-2603, hung@tigard-or.gov

Find a Certified Backflow
Assembly Tester:



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

13125 SW Hall Boulevard, Tigard, Oregon 97223

www.tigard-or.gov/water