

Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention Program



WHAT IS THE LAW?

Louisiana Administrative Code 51:XII & 17:I requires public water suppliers to protect their water systems from cross-connections and prevent backflow situations. Public water suppliers must evaluate any cross-connection hazards posed by their customers. If a customer has a cross-connection hazard, the customer will be required to eliminate the hazard and/or install a backflow prevention device.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

In Louisiana, the responsibility for preventing backflow is divided. In general, state and local plumbing codes have authority over plumbing systems within buildings, while Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals regulates protection of the water distribution system.

WHY IS OUR WATER SYSTEM ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE?

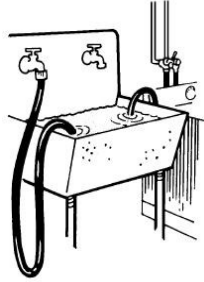
Our water system is particularly vulnerable to backflow contamination because most people are unaware of the dangers associated with backflow issues.

WHAT IS BACKFLOW AND CROSS-CONNECTION?

Backflow, within the context of the water industry, is a reversal of the flow of water from the customer's plumbing system, back to the public water supply. This condition can occur when there is a loss of pressure in the public water system's distribution lines, allowing water from the customer's plumbing to drain or siphon back into the public water distribution lines buried beneath the ground.

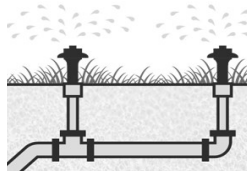
A cross-connection is any physical connection between a potable water supply and a non-potable water supply, or one of questionable water quality.

WHAT HAZARDS CAN OCCUR FROM BACKFLOW AND CROSS-CONNECTIONS?

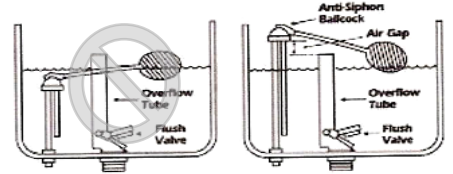


Toilet tanks are often treated with cleansing chemicals that could eventually enter into the public water distribution system if anti-siphon ballcock assemblies are not installed.

Ironically, a submerged garden hose is the most common offender when used to fill laundry sinks, swimming pools, lawn sprayers, aquariums, etc.



Lawn sprinkler systems with sprinkler heads installed below the ground level can also allow water, that has been in contact with fertilizers and weed killers, to drain into the public water distribution system when pressure is lost.

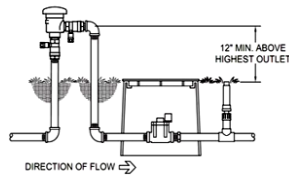


QUESTIONS ABOUT BACKFLOW? You may call **Gardner Community Water Association, Inc** at **318-793-4568** if you have any questions. Additional information on backflow prevention can be found on the web at: www.abpa.org

HOW CAN YOU PREVENT CONTAMINATION OF YOUR DRINKING WATER?

- Be aware of and eliminate cross-connections.
- Maintain air gaps. Do not submerge hoses or place them where they can become submerged.
- Use hose bib vacuum breakers on fixtures (hose connections in the laundry room and outside faucets).
- Make sure toilets have anti-siphon ballcock assemblies.
- Install approved, testable backflow prevention devices on lawn irrigation systems.
- Install an approved testable backflow prevention device at your homes water service connection.
- Do not create a connection between an auxiliary water system (well, cistern, body of water) and the water supply plumbing.

HOW WILL CUSTOMERS COMPLY? We ask that customers implement the recommendation outlined in this brochure.

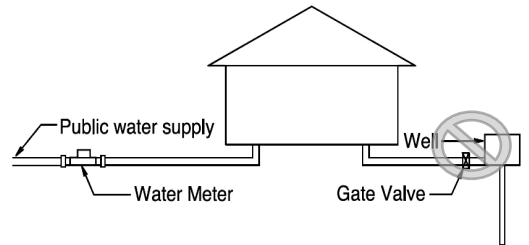


It is illegal to directly connect a private well or auxiliary water system to a public water supply, even if a gate valve or check valve is used to separate the two.

Anyone with an in-ground sprinkler or irrigation system will be required to have an approved, testable backflow prevention device. Installations should be made in accordance with the Louisiana State Plumbing Code. Customers must also provide proof that the backflow prevention device has been inspected by a certified tester on an annual basis. Lawn irrigation installers or local licensed plumbers can provide these services.



All home-owners should use hose bib vacuum breakers on all outdoor spigots. They are available in many hardware stores or can be purchased on-line for less than \$8.



TO AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF DISRUPTED SERVICE, THE WATER USE SURVEY BELOW MUST BE RETURNED TO OUR OFFICE WITHIN ONE (1) WEEK FROM RECEIPT OF THIS MAILING.

WATER USE SURVEY

Customer Name: _____

Phone: _____ Acct. No: _____

Service Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please check which applies: Business _____ Residential _____

The following is a list of plumbing profiles which will require the appropriate backflow prevention devices or method of containment/isolation. Please check all plumbing profiles that currently exist on your premises.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| YES | NO | CONTAINMENT/ISOLATION REQUIRED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fire Protection/Sprinkler Utilizing non-potable water as an alternative or primary source of water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Private Well |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Swimming Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ornamental Fountains |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cooling Towers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Chemical Tanks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Commercial Dishwashers in commercial establishments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Baptismal Fonts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Animal Watering Troughs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Agricultural Chemical Mixing Tanks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Water Hauling Tank Trucks |

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| YES | NO | REDUCED PRESSURE PRINCIPLE BACK FLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLY DEVICE REQUIRED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hospitals, Out Patient Surgical Facility, Renal Dialysis Facility, Veterinary Clinic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Funeral Home, Mortuaries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Car Wash |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sewerage Facility (Home Treatment Plants Not Included) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Chemical or Petroleum Processing Plant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Animal/Poultry Feedlots or Brooding Facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Metal Plating Plants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Food/Meat Processing Plants, Beverage Processing Plants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fire Protection/Sprinkler Systems Using Antifreeze |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Irrigation/Lawn Sprinkler Systems with Fertilizer Injection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Marinas/Docks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Radiator Shops |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Commercial Pesticide/Herbicide Application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Photo/X-Ray/Film Processing Laboratories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Multiple Commercial Units Served by a Master Meter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Any type of occupancy or any other facility having one or more Single-walled Heat Exchangers or Double-walled Heat Exchangers which uses any chemical additive, or corrosion inhibitor etc. in the heating/cooling medium |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Premises where access/entry is prohibited |

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| YES | NO | PRESSURE VACUUM BREAKER ASSEMBLY/ SPILL RESISTANT VACUUM BREAKER ASSY. DEVICE REQUIRED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Irrigation/Lawn Sprinkler System |
| YES | NO | DOUBLE CHECK VALVE ASSEMBLY DEVICE REQUIRED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fire Protection/Sprinkler Systems (a detector type double check valve is recommended on un metered fire lines) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Multiple Residential Dwelling Units served by a Master Meter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Multistoried Office/Commercial Buildings (over floors) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jails, Prisons, and Other Places of Detention or Incarceration |

DO YOU HAVE A BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE ALREADY INSTALLED?

- Reduced Pressure Zone (RP)
- Reduced Pressure Principle Detector Assembly (RPDA)
- Double Check Valve (DC)
- Double Check Detector Assembly (DCDA)
- Other _____
- Not Sure

Existing Device Information:

Manufacturer: _____
 Model: _____
 Serial No. _____ Size: _____
 Type: (Circle) RP DC DCDA RPDA

Please note, if you require one of the plumbing profiles listed in the future, you must request a Water Use Survey Form and submit the executed form to our office.

Signature: _____ Date: _____