



Backflow Prevention And Cross Connection Control Program

WHAT IS BACKFLOW?

Backflow is defined as the flow of water or other liquids, mixtures, or substances into the distributing pipes of a potable water supply from any source other than the intended source of the potable water supply.

Backflow most commonly occurs from backpressure or backsiphonage through a cross-connection. A cross connection is the physical link that makes it possible for contamination to flow into the potable water system.

Backpressure can occur when the normal direction of flow reverses in a piping system due to a downstream pressure that is greater than the supply pressure.

Backflow can be created by:

- Boilers
- Internal pumping systems
- Well pumps
- Or any system that creates pressure greater than the supply pressure

Backsiphonage is a more common experienced type of backflow. Backsiphonage occurs when the normal direction of flow reverses due to the supply pressure dropping low enough to create a vacuum or negative pressure in the upstream piping. Backsiphonage can be caused by:

- Water main breaks
- Break in water users plumbing
- Water supply shutdown
- Fire hydrant is struck
- Abnormally heavy water demand (fire fighting)

EXAMPLES OF CROSS CONNECTIONS AND BACKFLOW

1. A hose submerged in a utility tub, bucket, or swimming pool can be backsiphoned into your home plumbing or the potable water supply.
2. Backsiphonage through a hose attached to a pesticide/fertilizer applicator.
3. Submerged irrigation nozzles can backsiphon fertilizer, pesticides, and animal droppings.
4. Boiler systems can contain bacteria, chemicals, and additives that can be drawn into the water supply.
5. A cross connection between a private well/cistern and the public water supply.



HOW CAN YOU HELP PREVENT BACKFLOW?

- Eliminate cross connections
- Do not submerge hoses and maintain an air gap between the hose and the surface
- Install hose bib vacuum breaks on all hose bibs (available at your local hardware store)
- Confirm toilets have anti-siphon assemblies
- Install approved devices on irrigation systems
- Install approved device on home water service connection

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Although the water suppliers protect the distribution system and local plumbing inspectors have authority inside buildings, water customers have the primary responsibility. The customer has the responsibility to ensure there are no cross connections and that any installed backflow devices are tested annually.

If you have any questions, would like to report that you have testable backflow device, or would like to schedule a quick inspection with City of Barberton please call the Utilities Department at **330-848-6747**.