Lake Anna Park Fountain, Barberton Veterans Memorial

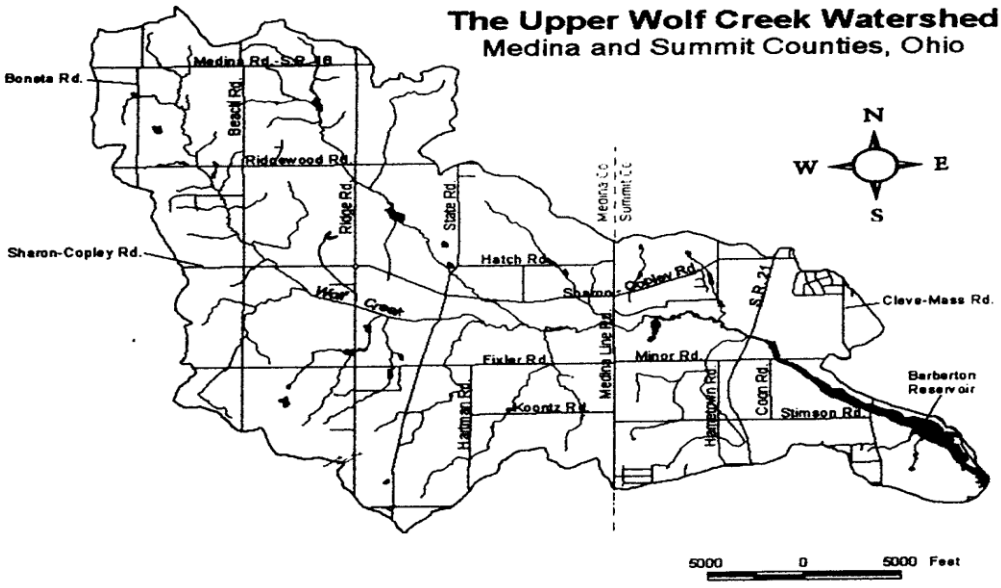
2024 Drinking Water
Consumer Confidence Report

The City of Barberton is committed to providing residents with a safe and reliable supply of high quality drinking water. We test our water using sophisticated equipment and advanced procedures. The City of Barberton drinking water has met all Ohio EPA standards. This annual "Consumer Confidence Report," required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), informs you where your water comes from, test results, general health information, and other facts you should know about your drinking water.

Barberton's water treatment plant, which had an unconditioned license to operate from the OEPA in 2024, serves all of Barberton and parts of Norton & Coventry. More information on our water quality data can be requested by calling the Barberton Water Treatment Plant at 330-848-6744.

WATER SOURCE

The City of Barberton has a surface water system that is supplied by the Upper Wolf Creek Watershed. A watershed is an area of land from which surface water drains into a common outlet, such as a stream, lake or wetland. The Upper Wolf Creek watershed drains approximately 18,062 acres in Medina and Summit Counties. The headwaters arise in the rural areas east of the city of Medina (Sharon Township) and flow east into the 200 acres, 670-million-gallon Barberton Reservoir in Summit County. The City of Barberton utilizes a Watershed Management Plan, which includes testing at representative sites in the watershed to monitor quality.



As a backup supply of water to the reservoir, the City of Barberton owns three ground water wells located on Pigeon and Wolf Creek with a total capacity of 5.0 million gallons per day (MGD). A well head protection plan is followed to protect these wells. These wells are used to supplement our water supply during times of drought and also can be used if the reservoir should experience a harmful algae bloom.

The City of Barberton also maintains two emergency water connections with the City of Akron. In 2024 Barberton did not purchase any water from Akron.

WHAT ARE SOURCES OF CONTAMINATION TO DRINKING WATER?

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

BARBERTON DRINKING WATER SOURCE ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

For the purposes of source water assessments in Ohio, all surface waters are considered to be susceptible to contamination. By their nature, surface waters are readily accessible and can be contaminated by chemicals and pathogens which may rapidly arrive at the public drinking water intake with little warning or time to prepare.

The underground aquifer of sand and gravel is also highly susceptible to potential contamination based on the following factors: the aquifer has a shallow depth; there is no significant protective layer of low permeability material between the aquifer and the ground surface; and potential significant contaminant sources exist within the protection area.

Potential contaminant sources within the City of Barberton's protection areas include:

- agricultural runoff from row crops and animal waste facilities
- inadequate semi-public and home sewage disposal systems
- new housing and commercial development that could increase storm water runoff from roads and parking lots, loss and fragmentation of a vegetated riparian corridor (stream buffers)
- leaks or spills from industrial, commercial, and hazardous material chemical storage areas and underground tanks, oil and gas wells, and transportation related spills.

The City of Barberton public water system treats the water to meet drinking water quality standards, but no single treatment technique can address all potential contaminants. The potential for water quality impacts can be further decreased by implementing measures to protect Wolf Creek Reservoir and the sand and gravel aquifer. More detailed information is provided in the City of Barberton's Drinking Water Source Assessment report, which can be obtained by calling the Barberton Water Treatment Plant at (330) 848-6744 weekdays between 7:00 am & 3:00 pm.

Use our PWS ID Number: OH7700411 and our Facility ID: 7758601
For more information, call The City of Barberton Water Treatment Plant at (330) 848-6744.

Frequently Asked Questions

If there are reported contaminants, how can my water be safe to drink?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. Their presence does not necessarily pose a health risk. However, some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly or infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Why is fluoride added to my water and how do I remove it?

Fluoride is added to the water to protect teeth as required by state law that passed in 1969. Some home filtration devices remove fluoride. If a filter is used, please follow manufacturer's instructions for maintenance as dirty filters pose not only taste and odor issues, but can create other health concerns. Bottled water may not contain fluoride depending on the source of the water.

Is there lead in my water?

There is no detectable lead in the water as it leaves the treatment plant. Water samples are collected at customer taps as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure safety. Lead in drinking water primarily comes from components associated with service lines and fixtures. The City of Barberton is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of material used in plumbing.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. To reduce exposure risk, USEPA recommends using cold water for drinking, cooking or preparing baby formula. When your water has been sitting several hours, flush tap water lines for 30 seconds and up to three minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If hot water is needed, collect the water cold and then heat the water as the heat can dissolve lead more quickly.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Information regarding the City of Barberton's Lead Program in partnership with 120Water can be found at the following website: https://pws-ptd.120wateraudit.com/cityofbarberton

If you are purchasing a filtering device to remove lead, please ensure the product's packaging specifically states that it is certified to meet the NSF/ANSI standard 53 for removing lead. Follow all manufacturer's instructions on maintaining the filter and replacement.

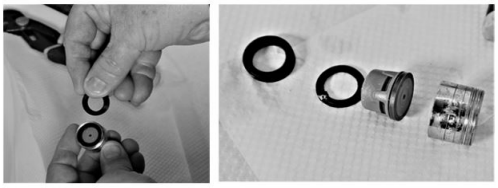
Clean Aerators | Flush Lines | Use Cold

What is a faucet aerator and how do I clean one?

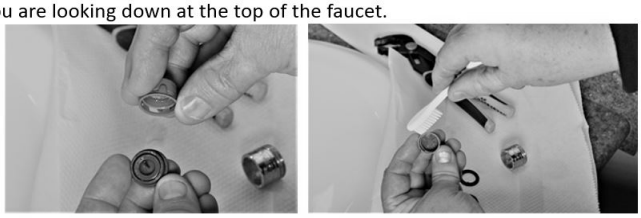
Cleaning faucet aerators at least twice per year and after disruptions in water service is important for maintaining the quality of water coming into your home. Aerator screens are made of metal or plastic and attach to the end of the faucet. During normal use aerators may accumulate tiny particles of sediment that have corroded from inside your home's plumbing and hot water tank. There are different types of aerators. The standard aerator screws onto the tip of the faucet and is the most common. Recessed faucet aerators may be inserted into some kitchen sink spray nozzles. Another type are called cache aerators, which need a special key or wrench to remove. Faucets with cache aerators are originally packaged with a flat metal or plastic tool that can be placed into the aerator grooves to unscrew it. If you do not have an aerator key set, one can be ordered online or by calling the manufacturer of your faucet. Instructions can be found online for your particular faucet.

Cleaning a Standard Aerator that Screws on to the Tip of Faucet

1. Remove aerator with adjustable wrench or once loosened, remove with fingers. Unscrew the screen until it comes off the tip of the faucet, by turning it clockwise if you are looking down at the top of the faucet.



2. Separate the parts of the screen. Rinse all parts with water and set into a small container.



3. If residue has accumulated on the screen or housing, soak the aerator parts in white vinegar for 20 minutes. Then, scrub all parts with a small clean brush.

4. Reassemble the aerator pieces and attach it to the faucet. Test the faucet for flow.

My water smells bad or has a taste issue. How do I remove it?

If you know you have a tap water quality or taste problem, or want to take extra precautions, you should purchase filters certified by National Sanitation Foundation International (NFS), American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and Underwriters Laboratory (UL). The Barberton Water Treatment Plant regulates its own use of chlorine to disinfect water. After large rain events and temperature increases, the treatment plant may add more chlorine to the water to meet EPA compliance standards. If you dislike the taste or smell of chlorine in your water, you can make the water more palatable by allowing it to be exposed to the air for a few hours or by pouring it from one clean container to another. In addition, you may consider installing a home water treatment kit specifically designed to remove chlorine from your drinking water. It is critically important that all home filters be maintained and replaced at least as often as recommended by the manufacturer, or they could make the problem worse.

There is a sewer odor coming from the sink. How do I remove it?

The most likely cause of a sulfurous (rotten egg) or sewer odor coming from a sink is from the water trap located below that sink. This is commonly called a "P-Trap". If organic material settles in the water trap beneath the sink or the trap is dry, it creates the sewer or rotten egg smell. This is often mistakenly perceived as coming from the tap water. Cleaning the trap by filling it with water and allowing it to sit overnight should help relieve the problem.

Sample Year 2024 Table of Detectable Contaminants (units)		MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detection	Violation
Microbiological	**Turbidity (NTU)*** (Soil Runoff)	N/A	TT (< 1NTU)	0.17	0.01-0.45	No
	Turbidity (% meeting Standard) * (Soil Runoff)	N/A	TT (%)	99.9	99.9-100	No
Disinfectant	**Total Chlorine (ppm)** (A water additive used to control microbes)	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	1.12	0.92-1.25	No
Organic	**TTHM (ppb)** (Total Trihalomethanes are a by-product of drinking water chlorination)	N/A	80	73.1	26.3-96.9	No
	HAA5 (ppb) (Haloacetic acids are a by-product of drinking water chlorination)	N/A	60	47.3	16.5-59.9	No
	Total Organic Carbon (ppm) ** (Naturally present in the environment)	N/A	TT	2.31	1.20-2.67	No
Inorganic	**Fluoride (ppm)** Naturally present in the environment from erosion; water additive to promote strong teeth)	4	4	.92	.38-1.15	No
	Nitrate (ppm, measured as Nitrogen) (run off from fertilizer, leaching septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits)	10	10	0.135	<0.10-0.54	No

*Turbidity is the measure of cloudiness and an indication of filter system effectiveness. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is 0.3 NTU in 95% of the samples analyzed each month and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time.

**The level reported under "Level Found" for Total Organic Carbon (TOC) is the lowest quarterly annual average ratio between percentage of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than one (1) indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than one (1) indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.

Sample Year 2024 Contaminants (units) (Typical Sources in Drinking Water)		MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation
Inorganics	**Barium (ppm)*** Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits	2	2	0.074	N/A	No
Unregulated Contaminants	**Total Hardness (ppm)*** (Primary calcium, magnesium content)	N/A	N/A	194	90-288	No
	Iron (ppm)* (Not a health related standard but a natural mineral that can cause staining)	N/A	300	0.012	0.001-0.063	No
	pH (units)* (a symbol for the degree of acidity or alkalinity of a solution)	N/A	TT	7.37	6.9-7.8	No
	Total Alkalinity (ppm)* (Neutralizes the acidity)	N/A	N/A	138	58-195	No
	Color (Units) * (Clarity measurement)	N/A	N/A	4	0-7	No
	Orthophosphate (PO^4) (ppm) * (Fed for formal corrosion control)	N/A	N/A	.8	.69-1.02	No
*Samples collected at plant tap						

Yearly Sampled Contaminants (units) (Typical Sources in Drinking Water)++		Action Level (AL)	Individual Results over AL	90th Percentile	Year	Violation
Lead and Copper Testing+	**Copper (ppm)** (Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits)	1.3 ppm	0	0.36 ppm	2024	No
		Out of 30 city samples, none were found to have copper levels in excess of the action level of 1.3 ppm.				
	Lead (ppb) (Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits)	15 ppb	0	3.3 ppb	2024	No
		Out of 30 city samples, one site was found to have lead levels in excess of the action level of 15ppb.				

+Lead and Copper samples are tested yearly in homes throughout Barberton.

++ There is no detectable lead in our water as it leaves the treatment plant. Corrosion of household plumbing systems is a source of lead and copper contamination. Water samples are collected at customer taps as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act.

UCMR 5 (Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5)

Unregulated contaminants are those for which U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of UCMR is to assist the EPA in determining the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. The Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring period began in 2023, continued through 2024 and concluded in 2025. UCMR 5 specifically focused on 29 PFAS compounds and the metal lithium.

In 2024 The City of Barberton participated in the fifth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). The City of Barberton completed all the testing required of UCMR 5 and none of the contaminants were detected. For a copy of results please call Water Plant Manager Daniel Miller at (330)564-2531. The presence of a compound does not necessarily equate to a health risk. The concentration of a compound is a far more important factor in determining whether there are health implications to the consumer. For more information on the UCMR 5, visit the USEPA website, https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule or contact the water plant at 330-848-6744.

WATER SERVICE MATERIAL INVENTORY SURVEY

Per the US EPA Lead and Copper Rules, Public Water Systems are required to develop and maintain a Service Line Inventory. A service line is the underground pipe that supplies your home or building with water. Please help the water system by participating in the water service pipe material survey. To view the Service Line Inventory, which lists the material type(s) for your location, you can visit:

Notice: This survey requires photos of your water service line to be uploaded. This is easiest on a mobile device. To access, scan the QR code or click on the following link
https://www.cityofbarberton.com/departments/utilities/water-service-material-inventory/

An Explanation of the Water Quality Data Table

The previous tables show the results of our water quality analyses. Every regulated contaminant that we detected in the water is listed here. The tables contain the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for the public health, the amount detected, the usual sources of such contamination, notes explaining our findings, and a key to units of measurement. Definitions of MCL and MCLG are important. All abbreviations used in the table to shorten longer names are defined below. Please read these definitions below for each abbreviation in question to find out more.
The data presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the regulations. No data older than five years is included. Although we ran tests for more than 100 contaminants, only the listed substances were found. All results are below the Maximum Contaminant Level required.

Definitions

Action Level or AL: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement that a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Detected Level: The average level detected of a contaminant for comparison against acceptance levels for each parameter. These levels could be the highest single measurement, or an average of values depending on the contaminant.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal or MRDLG: The level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Range: The range of all values for samples tested for each contaminant.

The "<" symbol: A symbol which means less than. A result of <2 means the lowest level that could be detected was 2 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

Unit Descriptions

Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/l): Units of measure for concentration of contaminant. One part per million in perspective is the same as 1 minute in 2 years, or 1 inch in 16 miles.

Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (ug/l): Units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. One part per billion corresponds to 1 second in 32 years.

Nephelometric Turbidity Units, NTU: Measure of cloudiness of the water. We monitor this because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the plant filtration system. The EPA sets a limit of 0.3NTU in 95% of the samples analyzed each month not to exceed 1 NTU.

N/A: Not Applicable

ND: Not Detected

Please Share this Information

The City of Barberton public water system is committed to improving drinking water quality to our customers. The improvements to the infrastructure within the plant allow for better treatment of source water. Testing after each step of the water treatment process and analyzing water samples in diverse locations of the water system demonstrates that we are dedicated to providing our customers with the highest quality of water.

The utilization of Geographic Information System (GIS) technology in the distribution system provides the city the ability to log and manage maintenance tasks, examine the types of service lines in use, and budget for future repairs. Removing lead service lines during water main replacement projects are helping to ensure public safety. Implementation of hydrant flushing and valve exercising plans ensure proper functioning and maintenance of water distribution equipment.

Please share this information with all people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example: those in apartments, nursing homes, schools and businesses). You may do so by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

All Barberton City Council meetings occur at the Municipal Building located at 576 W. Park Ave. on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. Members of the public are welcome. We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. Members of the public wishing to engage in the public comment portion of the meeting may do so by checking the upcoming dates and topics of the meetings online at http://cityofbarberton.com/163/City-Council. Videos of past meetings are posted on the Barberton City Council YouTube channel.

For more information on previous water quality tables, please contact Dan Miller, Barberton Water Treatment Plant Manager, at 330-848-6744 weekdays between 7:00 am & 3:00 pm.

System Projects - 2024

- The Dam infrastructure improvement plan and design continued. This plan reports on the current condition of the structure and provides recommendations on the capital improvements needed. At the time of this publication design is near 95% completion.

- A water main replacement project on Van Buren Ave. from Snyder Ave. to Eastern Road was completed.

- A Taylor Road water main replacement project was also completed which runs from Wooster Road West to Eastern Road.

- The water system's four water towers were drained, cleaned, inspected and returned to service.

- The City of Barberton and the City of Norton continue their partnership in a water distribution expansion project that will better supply businesses and residential allotments in the area. During 2024 more than 5000 feet of new water mains were added to the system as part of this expansion.

- Additional water infrastructure projects are in various stages of development, including Wooster Road West from 4th Street downtown to 27th Street, Wisteria Drive, Frank Street, Stratford Street and 5th Street NW.

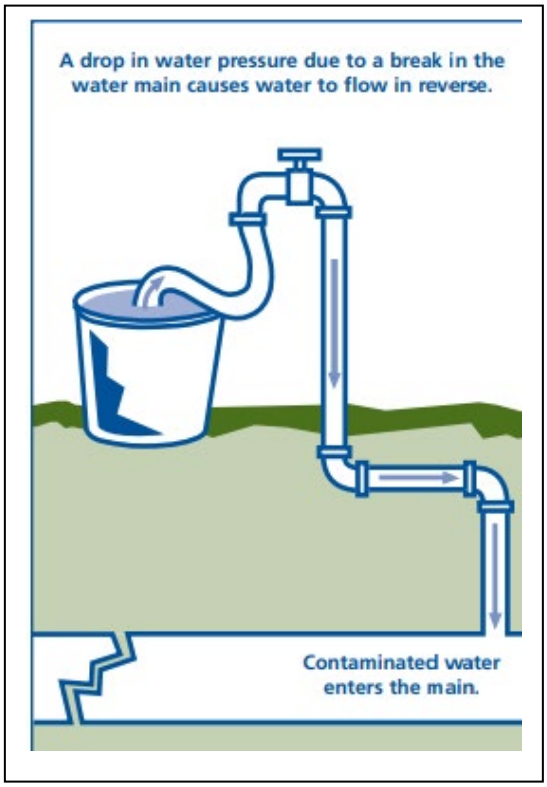
Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control Program

Backflow is the reversal of water flow in a system, most commonly caused by broken water mains, changes in pressure & faulty backflow prevention devices.

Back-siphonage is a commonly experienced type of backflow, which occurs when the normal direction of flow reverses due to a drop in the supply pressure dropping low enough.

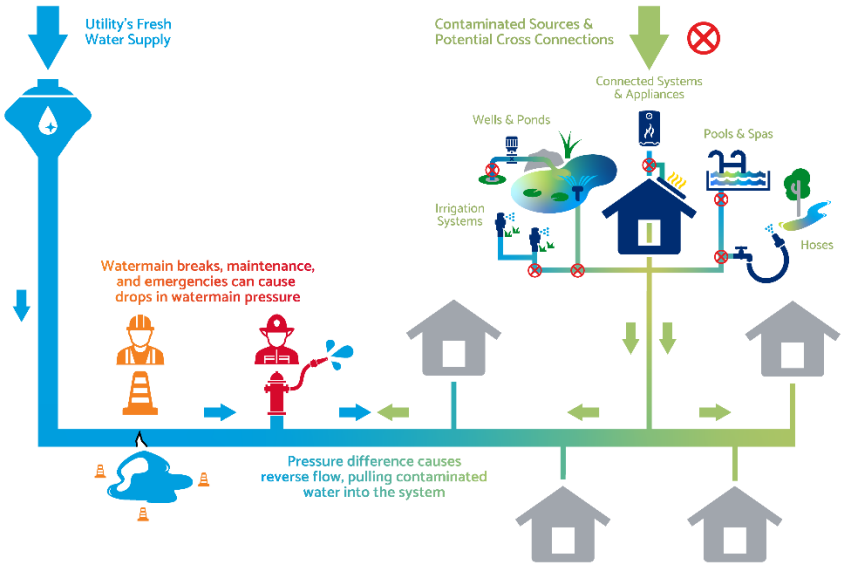
Examples:

- A hose submerged in a utility tub, bucket, or swimming pool can be back-siphoned into your home plumbing or the potable water supply.
- A hose attached to a pesticide or fertilizer applicator.
- Submerged irrigation nozzles can back-siphon fertilizer, pesticides, and animal droppings
- Boiler systems can contain bacteria, chemicals & additives that can be drawn into the water supply.



HOW CAN YOU HELP PREVENT BACKFLOW?

- Eliminate cross connections. A **cross connection** is a link between a potable water supply and a non-potable water source.
- 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



The City of Barberton takes backflow prevention very seriously. Regulations prevent irrigation systems, and swimming pools from being directly plumbed into the system without a proper backflow device. Additionally, all properties zoned industrial or commercial must be maintained in our backflow program.

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 a testable backflow device, or would like to schedule a quick inspection with City of Barberton, please call the Utilities Department at 330-848-6747.