

Backflow Prevention - What Does it Mean to You?

Taking Clean Water for Granted...

Every time you fill a glass with water from the tap, prepare a meal, or take a bath, you take for granted that the water will always be clean, pure, and healthy.

Occasionally, situations occur outside of our control that can jeopardize the quality of your drinking water. A very common occurrence in a water distribution system is the temporary loss of pressure due to the breakage of a water supply pipe or water main.

When these situations occur, conditions are present that can allow the backflow of pollutants or contaminants into the water system and threaten the purity of our drinking water system.



What is Backflow?

Backflow is the undesirable reversal of flow of fluids, chemicals, or any other foreign material into the public drinking water system.

There are two forms of backflow:

1. Backsiphonage - usually caused by a loss of pressure in the drinking water system.
2. Backpressure - caused by pumps, piping systems elevation, or thermal expansion from a heat source.

Backflow can cause our drinking water to become polluted or contaminated. Pollution reduces the quality of drinking water. It does not create a public health hazard, but adversely affects the aesthetics of taste, odor, and appearance.

However, when the drinking water is contaminated, there is concern for public health if the water is consumed. This creates a threat of illness or, in extreme cases, human mortality.

Can Backflow be Prevented?

Yes, the backflow of undesirable elements into the drinking water system can be prevented. A cross-connection is a physical connection between the water supply and any source of possible pollution or contamination. By eliminating or controlling all actual or potential cross-connections, the public drinking water system will be protected within the city water main system and within buildings. Simple plumbing changes can easily eliminate many cross-connections. However, where this is not possible, backflow prevention assemblies are installed to protect the water supply.

What Can You Do?

First, you should determine if there are potential cross-connections in your home or business. The local plumbing inspector or water provider can assist in this determination.

Next, you should investigate alternatives for eliminating or protecting against all actual or potential cross-connections.

After determining the necessary method of cross-connection control, the appropriate plumbing changes or the addition of a mechanical backflow prevention assembly should be made.

Local codes or government regulations are used to determine what specific backflow prevention assemblies are required for each application. The local water provider should always be consulted prior to purchasing and installing any backflow prevention assembly.

THANK YOU!!! To all our customers that made efforts to conserve our water resources both with indoor use and especially outdoor use. Our lawns may have been a little yellow, or brown, but the efforts were worth it. As we approach the Autumn season, please continue your efforts, even if we get some rain, we still do not know what the winter will bring by way of snowfall to replenish our water storage; we *must* look to the future. From June to July the retail water use was down just over 1.2 million gallons across all our systems.

From July to August it was down nearly 2.8 million gallons. **KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!**



As seasons change, it is also a good time to notify us of any changes in your contact information. It is important to have this information up to date for emergency purposes. Please select the 'Update Account Information' option from the 'Services' tab on our website: BRWCD.COM. Or send an email to jilli@brwcd.com with any updated information. Include your name, address, account number, phone number, email address.