

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR PROTECTING YOUR DRINKING WATER

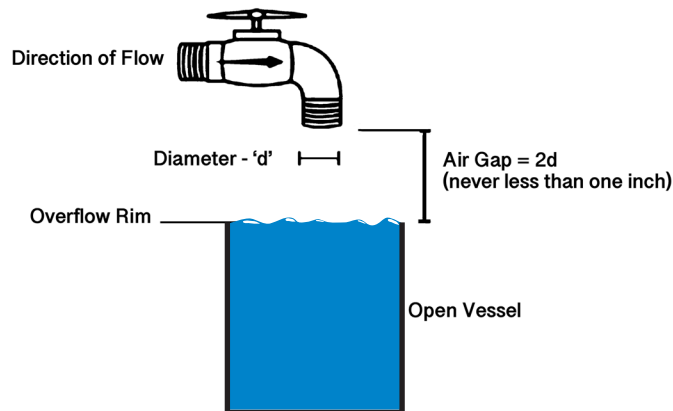
To Water Customer of Consolidated Waterworks District No 1:

Please be advised that the Louisiana Department of Health requires all public water systems within the state to protect the public water supply from contamination due to the backflow of water through cross-connections (LAC 51:XII). A cross-connection is any actual or potential connection between a potable water supply and one of unknown quality, whereby water may flow from one system to the other, depending on pressure differential. Customers with specific plumbing profiles that can allow a potentially dangerous cross-connection to occur when the public water distribution system experiences pressure loss will be required to utilize containment practices on their plumbing by installing and maintaining approved backflow prevention devices or methods of containment as described under the State Plumbing Code (LAC 17:1). The installed device/method must comply with the recommendations of Consolidated Waterworks District No 1.

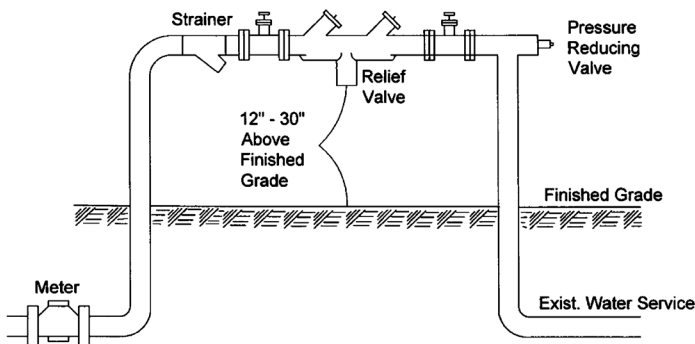
POSSIBLE DEVICES/METHODS

AS DETERMINED BY CONSOLIDATED WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO 1

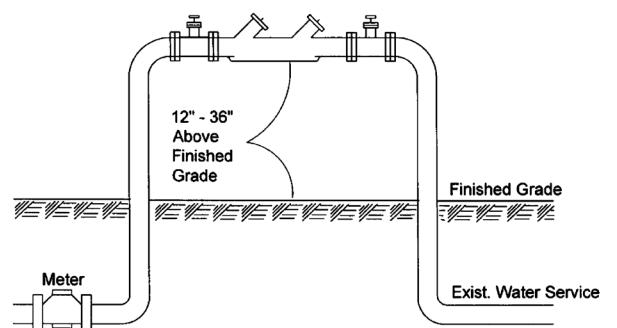
AIR GAP PREVENTION



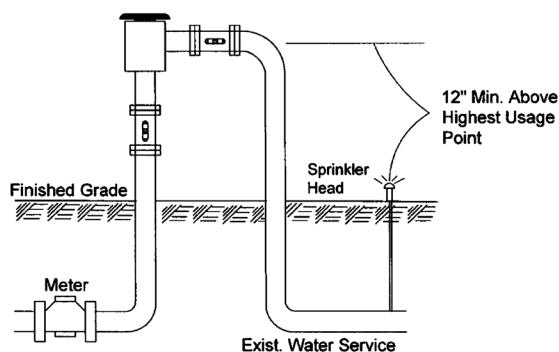
REDUCED PRESSURE BACKFLOW PREVENTER



DOUBLE CHECK BACKFLOW PREVENTER



PRESSURE VACUUM BREAKER BACKFLOW PREVENTER



Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention Program



WHAT IS THE LAW?

Louisiana Administrative Code 51:XII & 17:1 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?

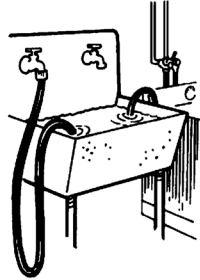
In Louisiana, the responsibility for preventing backflow is divided. In general, state and local plumbing codes have authority over plumbing systems within buildings, while Louisiana Department of Health regulates protection of the water distribution system. Water customers have the ultimate responsibility for properly maintaining their plumbing systems. It is the homeowner's or other customer's responsibility to ensure that cross-connections are not created and that any required backflow prevention devices are tested annually and are in good working order.

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. Contamination entering your drinking water can cause serious health problems to you and your family. Sickness and even death can occur from ingesting water that has been contaminated.

WHAT IS BACKFLOW AND CROSS-CONNECTION?

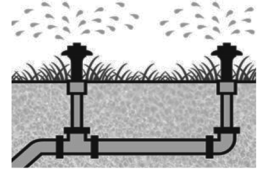
Backflow, within the context of the water industry, is a reversal of the flow of water from the customer's plumbing system, back to the public water supply. This condition can occur when there is a loss of pressure in the public water system's distribution lines, allowing water from the customer's plumbing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



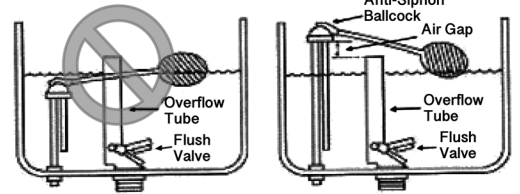
WHAT HAZARDS CAN OCCUR FROM BACKFLOW AND CROSS-CONNECTION?

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.

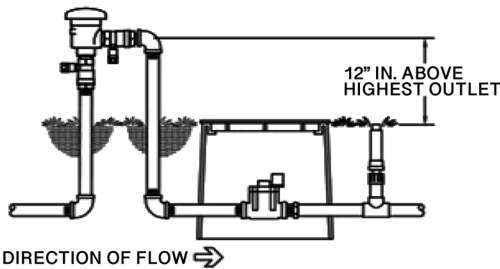


Toilet tanks are often treated with cleansing chemicals that could eventually enter into the public water distribution system if anti-siphon ballcock assemblies are not installed.

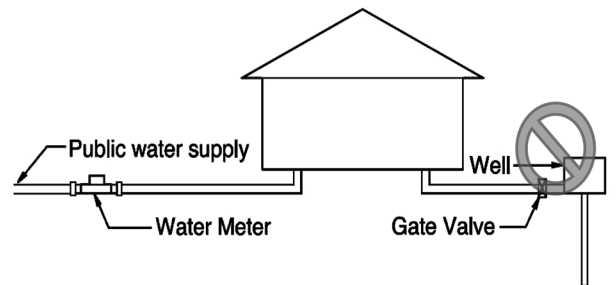


QUESTIONS ABOUT BACKFLOW? You may call **Consolidated Waterworks District No 1** at (985)879-2495 if you have any questions. Additional information on backflow prevention can be found on the web at: www.tpcw.org

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



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 of Consolidated Waterworks District on an annual basis.



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.



All homeowners should use hose bib vacuum breakers on all outdoor spigots. They are available in many hardware stores or can be purchased online for less than \$10.

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 home's water service connection.