

ADMINISTRATIVE GOVERNING AUTHORITY

In Louisiana, the responsibility for preventing backflow is divided. In general, state and local plumbing inspectors have authority over plumbing systems within buildings or fixture isolation assemblies such as those required for underground lawn sprinklers, while the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals regulates protection of the water distribution system.

WHAT IS THE LAW?

Louisiana Administrative Code 51:XII.344 requires each water supplier to protect the water produced and distributed by its distribution system from potential contamination by ensuring compliance with the containment practices and maintenance/field test testing requirements prescribed in LAC 51:XIV.609.F or as otherwise directed by the state health officer. In implementing any ordinances, rules, contracts, policies, or other steps to achieve such compliance, water suppliers shall have the authority to prohibit or discontinue water service to customers who fail to install, maintain, field test, or report the results of the field test for containment assemblies or methods in accordance with LAC 51:XIV.609.F.9, if it is determined they pose a health risk to the public water supply.

WHY IS OUR PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE?

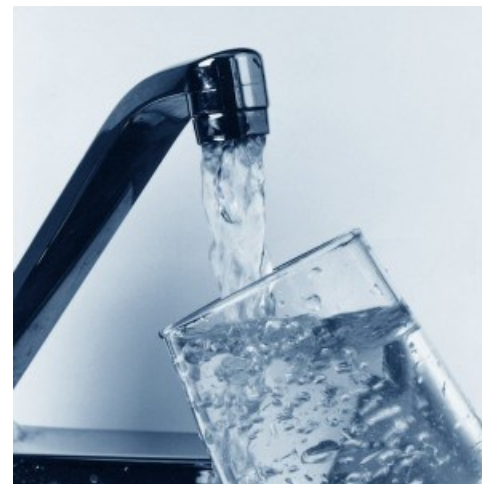
Public water supplies are particularly vulnerable to backflow contamination because most people are unaware of the dangers associated with backflow issues.

QUESTIONS ABOUT BACKFLOW?

You may call the office of Water District No. 1 at 337-855-7250 if you have any questions. Additional information on backflow prevention can be found on the web at <http://media.wattswater.com/f-50.pdf>

**WATER WORKS DISTRICT NO. 1, OF
WARD 1, OF CALCASIEU PARISH**

Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention Program



Help Protect Our Drinking Water

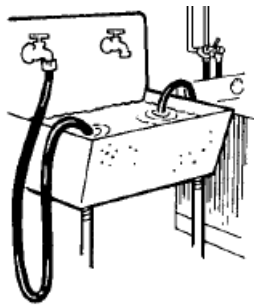
Tel: 337-855-7250

WHAT IS BACKFLOW AND CROSS-CONNECTION?

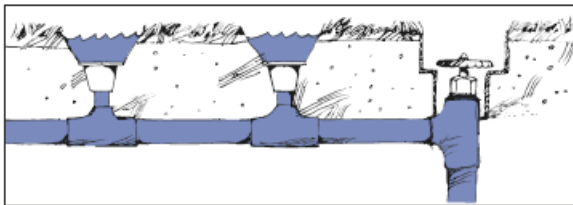
Backflow, within the context of the water industry, is a reversal of the flow of water from the homeowner's plumbing system, back into the public water supply. This condition can occur when there is a loss of pressure in the public water system's distribution lines, allowing water from the customer's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

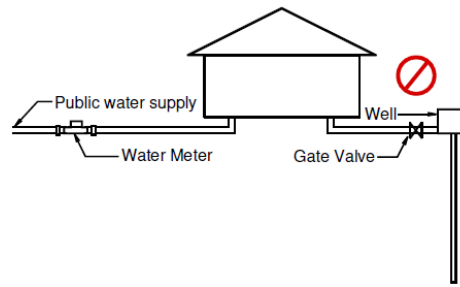
WHAT HAZARDS THAT CAN OCCUR FROM BACKFLOW AND CROSS-CONNECTIONS IF SYSTEM PRESSURE IS LOST?



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.



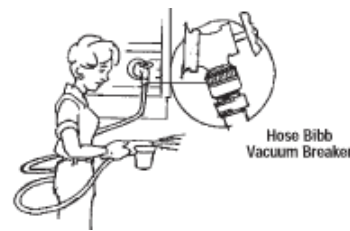
It is illegal to directly connect a private well or auxiliary water system to a public water supply, even if a gate valve or check valve is used to separate the two. The potable water supply must be separated from the auxiliary water source by a physical air gap.

HOW CAN YOU PREVENT BACKFLOW?

- Be aware of and eliminate cross connections.
- Maintain air gaps. Do not submerge hoses or place them where they could 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 and maintain approved, testable backflow prevention devices on lawn irrigation systems. To protect your family and the public water supply, annually test approved backflow prevention devices
- Do not create a connection between an auxiliary water system (well, cistern, body of water) and the water supply plumbing.

HOW WILL CUSTOMERS COMPLY?

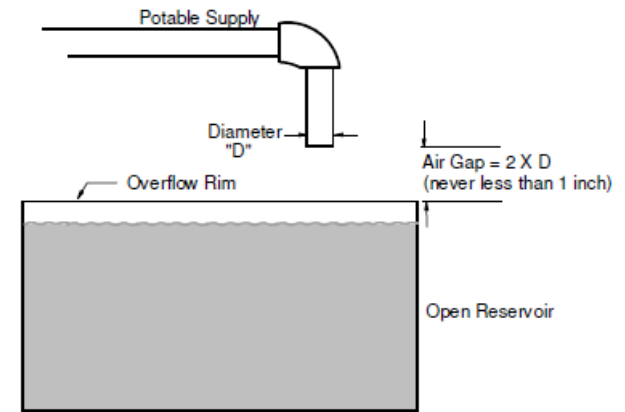
Water Works District No. 1 asks that customers implement the recommendations outlined in this brochure.



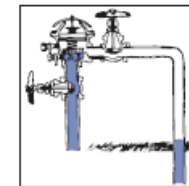
All homeowners should use hose bib vacuum breakers on all outdoor spigots. They are available in many hardware stores or can be purchased on line for less than \$8.

Use an approved air gap method when filling open reservoirs such as pools, spas, hot tubs, or watering troughs etc.

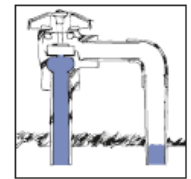
Approved Air Gap Method



An "approved air gap" shall be at least twice the diameter of the supply pipe measured vertically above the overflow rim of the reservoir; in no case less than 1 inch.



Pressure Vacuum Breaker



Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker

Commercial customers with an in ground irrigation systems or customers with a dedicated meter limited to supplying irrigation will be required to have an approved, testable backflow prevention device for containment. Installations shall be by a backflow prevention assembly technician in compliance with the Louisiana State Plumbing Code and LAC 51:XIV.609. These customers must also provide proof that the backflow prevention device has passed inspection by a certified tester on an annual basis. Residential customers with backflow prevention devices installed adjacent to their underground irrigation system which is connected to their domestic plumbing should also consider testing their backflow prevention device annually to insure protection to themselves from backflow.