



What is Backflow Prevention?

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The flow through a cross-connection from a possible source of contamination back into the public drinking water system. It occurs when a cross-connection is created and a pressure reversal, either as backsiphonage or backpressure, occurs in the water supply piping.

Why we need Backflow Prevention.

- ALL cross-connections pose a potential health risk.
- Backflow can be a health hazard for your family or other consumers if contaminated water enters your water supply plumbing system and is used for drinking, cooking or bathing. Chemical burns, fires, explosions, poisonings, illness and death have all been caused by backflow through cross-connections.
- Backflow occurs more often than you think.
- You are legally responsible for protecting your water supply plumbing from backflow that may contaminate drinking water, either your own or someone else's. This includes complying with the plumbing code and not creating cross-connections.

What can be done to prevent backflow?

The City of Bexley Water Department must determine potential and actual hazards. If a hazard exists at a customer's public water supply service connection, the customer will be required to install and maintain an appropriate backflow prevention device at the meter and/or at the source of the hazard. 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 basement, laundry room and outside). Install approved, testable backflow prevention devices on lawn irrigation systems. Do not create a connection between an auxiliary water system (well, cistern, body of water) and the water supply plumbing.

What is the most common form of a cross-connection in our home?

Ironically, the ordinary garden hose is the most frequent offender. A garden hose can be extremely hazardous when it is left submerged in swimming pools, utility tubs, and soapy buckets. Chemical sprayers are also attached to hoses for weed killing and fertilizing.

For more information on Bexley's Backflow Prevention Program please refer to <http://www.bexley.org/water> or contact the Bexley Water Department at (614).559.4270 or email Backflow@Bexley.org.