**What is a backflow prevention assembly?**

Backflow prevention assemblies are mechanical devices installed on water service lines to prevent the backflow of contaminated (unsafe to drink) water from entering the drinking water supply. Backflow assemblies must be State approved and properly installed and maintained. Backflow prevention assemblies are required to be tested annually by a certified backflow assembly tester.

**Did you know**

- Backflow assemblies (with the exception of atmospheric vacuum breakers and hose bib vacuum breakers) are required to be tested annually by a certified backflow assembly tester.
- A list of certified backflow assembly testers is available on the Oregon Health Authority website at www.public.health.oregon.gov.
- A copy of all backflow assembly test reports are to be submitted to TVWD upon completion of the test.

Maintaining a cross connection control program is critical to protecting the safety and high quality of the potable water system. Cross connections exist and can result in serious contamination events.

**How can I help protect my drinking water?**

- Be aware of the possible hazards of cross connections and avoid them whenever possible.
- Protect all cross connections with appropriate backflow assemblies.
- Correctly install the appropriate backflow prevention assembly. Prior to installation, contact your local plumbing authority to obtain a plumbing permit.
- Have all backflow assemblies tested annually by a certified tester.
- Submit backflow assembly test reports to your water purveyor.

**Testing Option For Residential & Irrigation Only Customers**

TVWD's "Gold Plan Testing Program"

- TVWD will schedule your backflow assembly to be tested annually and apply a testing fee per assembly to the water bill.
- Applicants must be a residential or irrigation only customer with a current water account in good standing.
- Application forms are available on TVWD's website at www.tvwd.org.

**For More Information**

Contact a Backflow Representative at (971) 327-6285 or backflow@tvwd.org.

**Be aware of thermal expansion**

You may need to protect your water heater from thermal expansion when you install a backflow prevention assembly at the water meter.

- Protection may be provided by the installation of a thermal expansion tank and a temperature relief valve (commonly referred to as a "T & P Valve").
- Contact a licensed plumber for assistance.
Learn How You Can Help Keep Your Water Safe

Clean water is essential to the health and well-being of our community

As a TVWD customer, you expect your drinking water to be safe. TVWD is committed to providing you the healthiest, highest quality water. Cross connection control programs help protect the water we drink from contamination.

Protection of our drinking water requires the efforts of everyone

Customers are responsible for preventing contaminants from entering the public water system through their individual plumbing systems by installing, maintaining and testing approved backflow prevention assemblies.

Did you know

A cross connection is a common hazard that can contaminate your water. A cross connection exists when drinking water piping is connected to any water source that is not approved as safe drinking water. These connections can result in contamination of your drinking water by allowing contaminated water to backflow (run backwards) into your drinking water. Backflow occurs when drinking water is at a lower pressure than the contaminated water.

Possible Cross Connections

- Submerged hoses
- Lawn sprinkler systems
- Fire protection systems
- Swimming pools and hot tubs
- Water features and fountains
- Boilers
- Solar water heating systems
- Cooling towers
- Wells and auxiliary water supplies

Backflow prevention assemblies

Hose Bib Vacuum Breaker

Common applications include: Hoses, swimming pools, wash tubs and utility sinks
- Easy to install
- Non-testable
- Limited backflow protection

Double Check Valve Assembly (DCVA)

The most common residential assembly. Common applications include: Lawn irrigation and fire sprinkler systems
- May be installed below ground
- Requires annual test
- Protects against many but not all hazardous conditions

Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker (AVB)

Common applications include: Lawn irrigation systems and faucets
- Must be installed a minimum of 6” above the highest point of water
- No shut-off valves allowed downstream of assembly
- Non-testable

Pressure Vacuum Breaker (PVB)

Common applications include: Lawn irrigation systems
- Must be installed a minimum of 12” above the highest point of water
- Requires annual test

Reduced Pressure Backflow Assembly (RP)

Common applications include: Swimming pool pump systems, chemical injection systems
- Must be installed a minimum of 12” above the highest point of water
- Requires annual test
- Highest protection