

Dear Customers,

The City of Silverton is committed to providing safe, clean drinking water. While the water that reaches your home or business is safe, it can be contaminated within a property owner's piping system, which could degrade water quality in the City through backflow or backsiphoning, into the City's water mains. Most current water using equipment and appliances have built in backflow prevention features, but some do not. Landscape irrigation systems, boilers, fire sprinkler systems, spas and swimming pools are examples of systems that typically do not have built in backflow protection features and require added protection. Please do your part to help ensure safe drinking water.

Thank you,

City of Silverton Public Works



Public Works Department

830 McClaine Street
Silverton, OR 97381
www.silverton.or.us

For more information, please visit
the Cross Connection Program
page at www.silverton.or.us or call
503-874-2281.

Safe Drinking Water: Cross Connection and Backflow Prevention



What You Need to Know About Backflow Prevention



What is a cross connection? Any physical connection created between a possible source of contamination and any drinking water system piping.

What is backflow? The flow through a cross connection from a possible source of contamination back into the drinking water system. This occurs due to backsiphonage or backpressure.

What causes backsiphonage? Backsiphonage is caused by negative pressure from a vacuum in the supply piping. Backsiphonage can be created when there is stoppage in the water supply due to repairs or breaks in the City's water main or an increased demand at one location, such as fire fighting. Backsiphonage reverses normal flow in the system, and can pull contaminants into drinking water.

What causes backpressure? Backpressure occurs when a higher opposing pressure is applied against the water system's supply pressure and overcomes the system's pressure. This allows gasses or liquids from another system to enter the water supply.

Testing Your Backflow Assemblies

Why do I have to install a backflow prevention device?

To protect customers of public water providers, the Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Act, Oregon Department of Human Services* and Uniform Plumbing Code each require customers to equip all cross connections with a backflow prevention assembly.

Do I need a permit?

It's best to check and see if your particular situation requires a permit. Permits can be obtained at City Hall. For more information, please call the Building Department at 503-874-2207.

How often does my backflow device need to be tested?

To meet state regulations, the City of Silverton requires devices to be tested by June 1st of each year. For a list of testers, contact the Public Works Maintenance Division at 503-874-2281 or visit the Cross Connection page on the City's website, www.silverton.or.us.

* See (OAR) 333-061-0070 for more information

Examples of Potential Cross-Connection and Backflow

- Chemical, pesticides and animal feces drawn into water supply plumbing from lawn irrigation system with submerged nozzles.
- Pool/spa water backsiphons through a hose submerged in the pool/spa.
- Fertilizers/pesticides backsiphon through a garden hose attached to a sprayer.
- Bacteria/chemicals in a boiler system backsiphon into water supply.
- Unsafe water pumped from private well applies backpressure and contaminates public water supply.



For more Information visit the Oregon Department of Health Services at: www.oregon.gov/dhs/ph/crossconnection/