

Backflow Prevention & Cross-Connection Control Program

Warren County is required by Ohio State Law to administer a backflow prevention program as a means to protect the public water supply from potential contamination. Warren County Water and Sewer Department (WCWS) will be taking over the containment backflow prevention program from the Health Department. As a courtesy, WCWS will mail out reminders and forms to customers for annual testing. Completed backflow prevention device test reports will be returned to our offices.

What is Backflow?

Backflow is the reversal of flow inside a potable water system through a cross connection, which could cause contamination to the public water system.

A **cross connection** is any connection between the public water system and a potential contaminant.

What causes Backflow to occur?

Backflow can happen anytime the public water system loses pressure, like during a water main break or when a fire hydrant is being used and a cross connection has been made.

Where does backflow commonly occur?

- Wash Basins & Service Sinks
- Hose Bibs or garden hoses
- Swimming Pools and Spas
- Irrigation Sprinkler Systems
- Fire Sprinkler System

How can we prevent backflow?

- Never submerge hoses in buckets, pools, spas, tubs or sinks.
- Always keep the end of the hose away from possible contaminants.
- Do not use any spray or cleaning attachments on your hose without a backflow prevention device on the hose.
- Install approved, testable backflow preventers on lawn irrigation systems, and register device with the water department.
- Do not create a connection between any well or cistern and the water supply plumbing.
- Install backflow prevention devices on your water powered sump pump and register it with the water department.



Where are backflow preventer required?

- Lawn & Landscape Irrigation Systems
- Fire Protection Systems
- Customers with active wells or cisterns
- Customers with water powered sump pumps
- Multifamily residential services
- Hospitals, mortuaries, clinics, nursing homes
- Agricultural operations and Farms
- Commercial and Retail Customers (Restaurants, Hotels, Businesses, etc.)
- Sewage treatment plants, sewage and storm water pumping stations
- Car washes



Reduced Pressure Double Check Valve

What are the testing requirements?

Ohio law requires all backflow prevention devices be tested every **12 months** by an approved tester.

Failure to install, maintain, and complete annual testing of required backflow prevention devices may result in your water service being disconnected.

For more information please visit our website at www.co.warren.oh.us/water or call (513) 695-1337.

