



What is Backflow Prevention All About?

Safe Drinking Water!

What is backflow?

Backflow occurs when a change of pressure causes a reversal of flow in the water distribution system. Water flowing opposite its normal direction can allow contaminants to enter our drinking water supply through cross-connections.

What are cross-connections?

A physical connection, either actual or potential, between a public water supply and a possible source of contamination.

What causes backflow to occur?

Water pressure can drop suddenly due to heavy usage, demand caused by fire-fighting, or even a water main break. Any of these conditions can result in backflow.

Does it pose a health risk?

Yes. Over the past several decades, there are a number of documented cases of contamination occurring to public water supplies as a result of cross-connections without any backflow prevention devices in place.

Can backflow be prevented?

Yes! A backflow prevention assembly provides a barrier between the public water supply and potential sources of contamination.

Where are backflow prevention devices needed?

Wherever a cross-connection risk exists. This includes, but is not limited to:

Lawn irrigation systems	Veterinary clinics
Fire sprinkler systems	Soft drink dispensers
Medical facilities	Photo processing labs
Dental offices	Commercial car washes

Why annual testing?

The assemblies have moving parts which can foul or wear out. Periodic testing insures the devices are working properly.

Fee's associated with annual testing?

Residential Customers:

Effective January 1, 2013, all testing of existing backflow devices on residential irrigation systems will be performed by a third-party tester under contract with the City of Midlothian. This testing will be performed ***AT NO COST TO YOU***. The City will schedule the required testing, handle the necessary paperwork, and maintain the necessary records. However, please be advised that if your device fails the testing and requires repair and/or replacement, you will be notified by the City and will be responsible for hiring a registered installer/plumber and covering all costs associated with this work.

Non-residential Customers:

Yes, there is an annual administrative processing fee per device paid to the City of Midlothian, as well as fee's charged by tester to perform the test.