

CITY OF GRETNA PLUMBING BACKFLOW REQUIREMENT

THE LAW Louisiana Administrative Code 51:XII & 17:1 requires public water suppliers to protect their water systems from cross-connections and prevent backflow situations. Public water suppliers must evaluate any cross-connection hazards posed by their customers. If a customer has a cross connection hazard, the customer will be required to eliminate the hazard and/or install a backflow prevention device.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY In Louisiana, the responsibility for preventing backflow is divided. In general, state and local plumbing codes have authority over plumbing systems within buildings, while the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals regulates protection of the water distribution system.

OUR VULNERABILITY Our water system is particularly vulnerable to backflow contamination because most people are unaware of the dangers associated with backflow issues.



WHAT IS BACKFLOW AND CROSS-CONNECTION? Within the context of the water industry, **backflow** is a reversal of the flow of water from the customer's plumbing system back to the public water supply. This condition can occur when there is a loss of pressure in the public water system's distribution lines, allowing water from the customers plumbing to drain or siphon back into the public water distribution lines buried beneath the ground.

A **cross-connection** is any physical connection between a potable water supply and a non-potable water supply, or one of questionable water quality.

WHAT HAZARDS CAN OCCUR FROM BACKFLOW AND CROSS-CONNECTIONS? A **submerged garden hose** is the most common offender when used to fill laundry sinks, swimming pools, lawn sprayers, aquariums, etc. **Lawn sprinkler systems** with sprinkler heads installed below the ground level can also allow water that has been in contact with fertilizers and weed killers to drain into the public water distribution system when pressure is low. **Toilet tanks** are often treated with cleansing chemicals that could eventually enter into the public water distribution system if anti-siphon ballcock assemblies are not installed.



HOW CAN I PREVENT DRINKING WATER CONTAMINATION?

1. Be aware of and eliminate cross-connections.
2. Maintain air gaps. Do not submerge hoses or place them where they can become submerged.
3. Use hose bibb vacuum breakers (**SHOWN**) on fixtures (hose connections in the laundry room and outside faucets).
4. Make sure toilets have anti-siphon ballcock assemblies.
5. Install approved, testable backflow prevention devices on lawn irrigation systems.
6. Install an approved testable backflow prevention device at your homes water service connection.
9. Do not create a connection between an auxiliary water system (well, cistern, body of water) and the water supply plumbing.



HOW DO I COMPLY?

1. Implement the recommendations outlined in this brochure.
2. If you have an in-ground sprinkler or irrigation system, you must have an approved, testable backflow prevention device. Installations should be made in accordance with the Louisiana State Plumbing Code. Customers must also provide proof annually that the backflow prevention device has been inspected by a certified tester. Lawn irrigation installers or licensed plumbers can provide these services.
3. It is illegal to directly connect a private well or auxiliary water system to a public water supply, even if a gate valve or check valve is used to separate the two.
4. Use hose bibb vacuum breakers (\$8 in hardware stores or online) on all outdoor spigots.
5. Return the Water Survey on the back of this page.



QUESTIONS? Contact Interim Public Utilities Director Ron Johnson, rjohnson@gretnala.com or (504) 363-1543 or Plumbing Inspector Gil Boudreaux, gboudreaux@gretnala.com or (504) 355-5794

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WATER USE SURVEY



RETURN YOUR COMPLETED SURVEY TO
GRETNA WATER DEPARTMENT
 PO BOX 404
 GRETNA, LA 70054-0404

TO AVOID DISRUPTED SERVICE, THIS WATER USE SURVEY **MUST** BE RETURNED TO OUR OFFICE WITHIN ONE WEEK FROM RECEIPT OF THIS MAILING. YOU MAY ALSO DOWNLOAD THIS SURVEY FROM gretнала.com/departments/public-utilities AND EMAIL YOUR COMPLETED SURVEY TO **BACKFLOW@GRETNALA.COM**.



CUSTOMER NAME PHONE ACCOUNT NUMBER
 SERVICE ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP

CHECK ONE THAT DESCRIBES YOUR PROPERTY: Single-family residence Multiple-family residence Commercial Industrial Municipal

The following is a list of plumbing profiles which will require the appropriate backflow prevention devices or method of containment/ isolation. Please check all plumbing profiles that currently exist on your premises. **ONLY THOSE WITH THE LISTED PLUMBING PROFILES SHALL CHECK THE YES OR NO BOXES. CHECK YES IF YOU OWN A BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE AND NO IF YOU DO NOT.**

YES NO REDUCED PRESSURE PRINCIPLE BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLY (RP) DEVICE REQUIRED

- Hospitals/Outpatient Surgical Facility, Renal Dialysis Facility, Veterinary Clinic
- Funeral Home, Mortuaries
- Car Wash
- Sewerage Facility (Home Treatment Plants Not Included)
- Chemical or Petroleum Processing Plant
- Animal/Poultry Feedlots or Brooding Facilities
- Metal Plating Plants
- Food/Meat Processing Plants, Beverage Processing Plants
- Fire Protection/Sprinkler Systems Using Antifreeze
- Irrigation/Lawn Sprinkler Systems with Fertilizer Injection
- Marinas/Docks
- Radiator Shops
- Commercial Pesticide/Herbicide Application
- Photo/X-Ray/Film Processing Laboratories
- Multiple Commercial Units Served by a Master Meter
- Any type of occupancy or any other facility having one or more Single-walled Heat Exchangers which uses any chemical additive, or corrosion inhibitor etc., in the heating/cooling medium
- Premises where access/entry is prohibited

YES NO DOUBLE CHECK VALVE ASSEMBLY (DC) DEVICE REQUIRED

- Fire Protection/Sprinkler Systems (a detector type double check valve is recommended on unmetered fire lines)
- Multiple residential dwelling units served by a master meter
- Multistoried Office/Commercial Buildings (over floors)
- Jails, Prisons, and Other Places of Detention or Incarceration

YES NO PRESSURE VACUUM BREAKER ASSEMBLY (PVB) / SPILL RESISTANT VACUUM BREAKER ASSEMBLY (SVB) DEVICE REQUIRED

- Irrigation/Lawn Sprinkler System

YES NO CONTAINMENT/ISOLATION REQUIRED

- Fire protection/sprinkler using non-potable water as an alternative or primary source of water
- Private Well
- Swimming Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs
- Ornamental Fountains
- Cooling Towers
- Chemical Tanks
- Commercial Dishwashers in Commercial Establishments
- Baptismal Fonts
- Animal Watering Troughs
- Agricultural Chemical Mixing Tanks
- Water Hauling Tank Trucks

➔ IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO ANY OF THE ABOVE CATEGORIES, ANSWER THE QUESTIONS IN THE FOLLOWING BOX:

CHECK THE BOX IF YOU HAVE A BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE ALREADY INSTALLED

Reduced Pressure Backflow Prevention Assembly (RP)

Double Check Valve Assembly (DC)

Pressure Vacuum Breaker Assembly (PVB)

Spill-Resistant Pressure Vacuum Breaker Assembly (SVB)

Other

Not Sure

Existing Device Information:

Manufacturer:

Model:

Serial No.:

Size:

Type (Check One) RP DC PVB SVB

Reduced Pressure Backflow Prevention Assembly (RP)

Double check valve assembly (DC)

Pressure Vacuum Breaker Assembly (PVB)

Spill-Resistant Pressure Vacuum Breaker Assembly (SVB)

Please note, if you require one of the listed plumbing profiles in the future, you must request a Water Use Survey Form and submit the executed form to our office.

SIGNATURE

DATE