SPRING 2022 NEWS BRIEF

Cross Connection Control (Backflow Prevention) Notice:

LAWN SPRINKLERS – Federal, state, and local regulations require every municipal water supplier to develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive Cross Connection Control program designed to safeguard the public water supply.

Cross connections are sometimes protected by a valve called a backflow preventer. Backflow preventers are the property of the water customer and the responsibility lies with the customer for required annual testing and maintenance. The water customer must contract with a certified tester to perform the required annual tests and any necessary repairs. Most plumbing contractors and irrigation firms are certified to test backflow preventers. Please realize that there are costs associated with testing and maintaining backflow preventers.

Backflow preventers may be found at any number of locations on your water systems. Typically, commercial & industrial customers will have backflow preventers just after the water meter and also on wet fire protection systems. Lawn irrigation systems or other water connections throughout their facilities may also have or require backflow protection.

Residential backflow preventers may be found on lawn irrigation systems, wet fire protection systems, hot water heating (boiler) systems, swimming pool fills, water features, etc. Backflow preventers may also be found or required if there is another water source on the site such as a well, pond, river, etc. For additional information, please see the attached attachment with more cross connection details.

Lawn sprinkler systems will be starting up soon. Codes require backflow preventer testing annually, and especially after installation, re-installation, relocation, and/or repairs.

Aqua Backflow has been hired by the Village of Bannockburn to assist with administering the backflow program. If you have or require backflow protection, you may be notified by them for compliance (testing, repairs, installations, inspections, or surveys). Aqua Backflow can be reached at 847-742-2296 if you have questions. Aqua Backflow does not test, install, or repair backflow preventers.

Remember that Cross Connection Control programs are designed to safeguard public health. We ask for your cooperation with our program, its enforcement, and any requests for information that come from Aqua Backflow or Village of Bannockburn staff.

Sincerely,

Ryan Mentkowski
Assistant Village Manager
Village of Bannockburn
Email: RMentkowski@villageofbannockburn.org

AQUA BACKFLOW
Protecting your water supply from contamination ©
Contact Information:
(847) 742-2296 ph  (847) 214-9696 fax
www.AquaBackflow.com
www.TrackMyBackflow.com
Information for New Residents Regarding Village Backflow / RPZ Requirements

The Village of Bannockburn is Committed to Providing Safe Drinking Water

The Village of Bannockburn is committed to providing you the healthiest, highest quality water, but we need your help to prevent contamination from occurring at your home or business. Additional information can be found on the Village of Bannockburn website (https://bannockburn.org/government/departments/water-sewer-department/) or the QR code below.

Many ordinary household activities, under the wrong circumstances, can lead to water contamination. For example, a garden hose submerged in a tub of water to wash your pet or car, or connected to a garden sprayer containing fertilizer or insecticides, can lead to contamination of the water in your household pipes or in the Village water system. Taking simple precautions with your home water use can prevent drinking water contamination.

What is a Cross Connection?
A cross connection is any connection between piping that carries drinking water (‘potable water’) and the piping or fixtures that carry water not suitable for drinking or other substances that are not safe to drink, such as cleaning products, yard and garden chemicals, automotive products, water from irrigation systems, fire sprinkler systems, or private wells.

What is Backflow?
Drinking water normally flows in one direction, from the meter to the house. Under certain circumstances, it can flow in the opposite direction – this is called “backflow.” A backflow incident can happen at any time. All that is needed is a water pressure drop in the public water system main line, most commonly caused by fire fighting, hydrant flushing, flow testing, a water main break, or extreme high usage on the water system.

Why is Backflow Protection Necessary?
If a pressure drop occurs, any connection to a non-potable water source could be siphoned back into the customer’s drinking water piping, polluting the water within the home, and possibly into the water mains in the street, contaminating the public water system.

Do I Currently Have Adequate Backflow Protection?
If your irrigation system, fire sprinkler system, swimming pool, spa, or other device or appliance plumbed to a water line, was installed with a building permit issued by the Village Building Department, adequate backflow protection was required.

What is a Backflow Assembly?
Backflow assemblies are devices placed on cross connections to prevent water from back flowing into the public water system. The most common type of backflow assembly is a double check valve assembly, which consists of two independent check valves, two resilient seated shut-off valves and test cocks. To ensure they work correctly, all backflow assemblies must be tested annually with the exception of atmospheric vacuum breakers which are typically found on outdoor hose faucets.

How Often Do Backflow Assemblies Need to be Tested?
Backflow assemblies must be tested:
1. At the time of installation
2. Annually after installation
3. Following any repair work
4. After relocating any backflow assembly

Following the testing, the certified plumber must submit a copy of the test report to Aqua Backflow.

IF YOU HAVE NOT TESTED YOUR BACKFLOW DEVICE ANNUALLY, YOU WILL BE CONTACTED BY THE VILLAGE’S CONSULTANT (AQUA BACKFLOW) TO PROVIDE WRITTEN VERIFICATION FROM A CERTIFIED PLUMBER THAT THE DEVISE PROPERLY CLOSES (& THEREFORE PROTECTS THE VILLAGE’S WATER)

Who Can Test the Backflow Assembly?
Backflow assembly tests in Bannockburn can only be conducted by Illinois licensed plumbers who are also certified to inspect backflow assemblies. While not a recommendation, Aqua Backflow has created a database of licensed plumbers and can be found on their website: https://www.aquabackflow.com/backflow-testing-companies/ [scan the QR code to be taken to Aqua Backflow]

New Residents Backflow - December 2021
What is a Cross Connection?

Plumbing cross-connections are defined as actual or potential connections between a potable and non-potable water supply. This may cause a backflow condition or a serious health hazard to occur.

What is Backflow?

Backflow is when the water in your pipes (the pipes after the water meter) goes backward (the opposite direction from normal flow). There are two situations that can cause a backflow condition.

“Back Pressure” – a pressure greater than the supply pressure that may cause backflow. (High-pressure boiler or pressure washer)

“Back Siphonage” – the creation of a backflow as a result of negative pressure. (Water main break or use of fire hydrants)

Along with the required backflow preventers and their regular maintenance, site inspections or surveys may be performed at properties that present a potential hazard to our water systems:

* External (“site”, or “containment”) – to protect the Village’s water supply from cross connections on the customer’s premises.

* Internal (“hazard”, or “isolation”) – to protect the customer from potentially hazardous cross-connection in their own system.

What is considered a potential hazard?

Cross-connections can occur at many points throughout a distribution system and a community's plumbing infrastructure. Cross-connections can be identified by looking for physical interconnections (or arrangements) between a customer’s plumbing and the water system. Some examples of backflow incidents that occur are:

► Chemicals backflowing (back-siphoning) through a hose into indoor plumbing.

   Over ⅓ of the nations cross-connections are from unprotected garden hoses!

► Carbonated water from a restaurant’s soda dispenser entering a water system due to backpressure.

► Back siphonage of chemicals from industrial buildings into distribution system mains.

► Backflow of boiler corrosion control chemicals into a building’s water supply.

There are numerous, well-documented cases where cross-connections have been responsible for contaminating drinking water, and have resulted in the spread of disease. The problem is a dynamic one, because piping systems are continually being installed, altered, or extended.

November, 2011 – Columbia, SC:

(WLTX) News19 anchor Andrea Mock discovered her home was missing an irrigation system backflow preventer after brown water ran through her tap. When DHEC came to test her water, they found an elevated level of 2, 4, D, an herbicide. Mock said, “As soon as I found out we didn’t have this part, I called DHEC because I wanted to see what we had been drinking. And that test would only show what was in the water on that particular day. There’s no telling what we might have consumed over the past five years. Without this part, anything we put on our grass had the potential to come into our water.”

Pressure Vacuum Breaker (PVB)

Double Check Valve (DC)

Dual Check Valve (DuC)

Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ)
The Village of Bannockburn proudly supplies millions of gallons of safe, clean water every day to our customers. Our water quality exceeds the standards established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

Congress established the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1974 to protect human health from contaminants in the drinking water.

IEPA Regulations and Illinois Plumbing Codes require every water supplier to develop and implement a comprehensive cross connection control program for the elimination of all existing cross connections and the prevention of all future cross connections.

Bannockburn’s Cross Connection Control Program is designed to safeguard public health. We ask for your cooperation with our program and its enforcement.

The Village of Bannockburn has contracted with Aqua Backflow to assist with the Water Utility’s Cross Connection Control Program.

Aqua Backflow may contact you to request information, require a backflow test, or more. Your cooperation and courtesy is appreciated as we perform the required tasks for a complete cross connection control program. Please note that you may be asked to test or install backflow protection where needed in accordance with Illinois Plumbing Code.

Let’s keep our drinking water safe.

Aqua Backflow
977 Elizabeth Street
Elgin, IL 60120
Phone (847) 742-2296
Fax (847) 214-9696
www.AquaBackflow.com
www.TrackMyBackflow.com
For backflow stories, please visit www.BackflowCases.com

Village of Bannockburn
2275 Telegraph Rd
Bannockburn, IL 60015
(847) 945-6080