

Why Are Backflow Preventers Needed?

Backflow preventers are designed and installed to prevent the flow of water backwards through a pipe. They protect your public utility drinking water system from backflow created by backsiphonage or backpressure.

* Backpressure—the pressure in your pipe is greater than the pressure coming in.

* Backsiphonage—a negative pressure in one of the pipes.

Why Do Residential Backflow Preventers Need To Be Tested Every 2 Years?

The backflow preventer is a mechanical device that needs maintenance regularly. The device must be tested biennially by a certified tester who will test to make sure the device is in compliance or in need of repairs or replacement. After testing and certification, the backflow preventer must be tagged with an all weather tag with the company name, date certified, expiration date and tester's name and license number.

The City of North Port Utilities Department's Cross Connection Control Plan is established and regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and City of North Port Ordinance No. 08-19. This brochure is based on Florida Administrative Codes 62-550 and 62-555.

Florida Administrative Code 63-555.360 *Community Water systems, and all public water systems which have service areas that are also served by reclaimed water systems regulated under Part III, of Chapter 62-610 F.A.C., shall establish and implement a routine cross-connection control program to detect and control cross-connections and prevent backflow of contaminants into the water system.*

The City of North Port Utility Department's Cross Connection Control Plan was developed in conjunction with the Sarasota County Health Department Public Water Section and meets all Florida Department of Environmental Protection requirements.



City of North Port
Utilities Department
6644 W. Price Blvd.
North Port, FL 34291
Tel: (941) 240-8000

Cross Connection and Backflow Prevention



Residential Backflow Prevention Device
on Water Line

REMEMBER,
the water you protect,
could be your own!

City of North Port
Utilities Department

www.cityofnorthport.com/utilities

Tel: (941) 240-8000

City of North Port Utilities Department—Cross Connection Control Program

Protecting Public Health



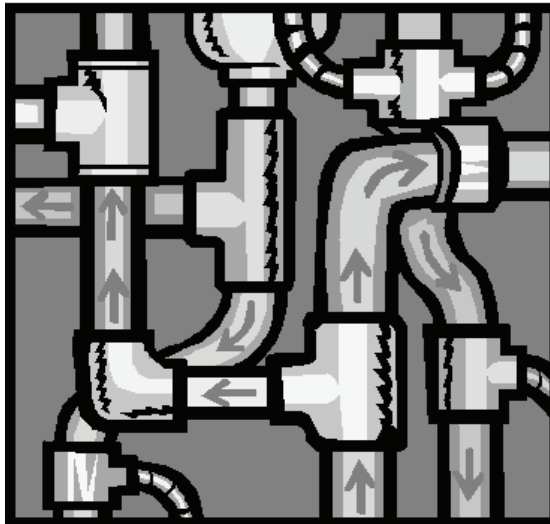
North Port Utilities delivers safe water to over 18,000 customers every day. Our water plant operators perform daily tests on your drinking water. Pro-

tecting public health is a huge responsibility and while North Port Utilities does everything it can to ensure the safety of the water supply, sometimes we must ask our customers for assistance.

One of the most effective ways to protect our drinking water is to prevent contaminants on the outside of the distribution system from being pulled back into the public water supply. This can happen when the pressure in the system changes and water flow is reversed.

What is a Cross Connection?

A cross connection is any connection between piping that carries drinking water (also known as potable water) and the piping or fixtures that carry other types of water or substances that may not be safe to drink (also known as non-potable). These non-potable substances could be gases, chemicals, steam, water from other sources and any matter that may change the color, taste, quality or add odor to water.



What is Backflow?

Drinking water normally flows in one direction (from the meter to the home or business). Under certain circumstances it can flow in the opposite direction, or “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, flow testing, a water main break or extreme high usage on the water main system.

Any connection to a non-potable source not protected could be siphoned back into the public water system, which can pollute or contaminate the water system.