



Backflow – What Customers Need to Know

Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District is committed to providing safe, reliable drinking water to the community. One of the ways we protect our supply is by ensuring water is not contaminated by backflow from private properties into the BCVWD system. **Some properties within the District's service area are required to have backflow prevention devices.** Properties requiring backflow protection could have one device, and others may need more than one. Customers are responsible for professionally installing backflow prevention devices, maintaining them and replacing them if needed.

What is backflow?





Backflow is an abrupt or unanticipated change in water pressure that can cause the normal flow of water in pipes to go backwards. When backflow occurs, potentially contaminated water reverses direction from the customer's internal plumbing system to the public water supply, creating a possible health risk. One example of backflow is soapy water or other cleaning agents from a hose submerged in a bucket.

Where does backflow occur?







Backflow occurs at cross-connections within an internal plumbing system, where water can change direction and possibly enter the public water system.

Common cross-connections include:

Residential

-  Lawn irrigation systems
-  Garden hose connections to chemical dispensers, such as fertilizer
-  Hose bibs
-  Swimming pools

Commercial

-  Fire sprinklers
-  Boilers
-  Chillers
-  Chemical mixing tanks
-  Pressure pumps
-  Lawn irrigation systems

How can I prevent backflow?

Customers can avoid backflow by installing backflow prevention devices to keep water from reversing direction. Backflow prevention devices are placed in the water line between the customer's water meter and the first branch in the private plumbing. Depending on the property, they are also placed at various cross-connections such as the ones listed above.

BCVWD requires backflow prevention devices for domestic water (drinking) systems, non-potable water (irrigation) systems, and fire devices at non-single-family residences.



Backflow Dos & Don'ts



DO

- ✓ Keep the end of hoses off the ground and away from possible contaminants
- ✓ Install a hose bib vacuum breaker on all indoor and outdoor spigots
- ✓ Have a professional check that your landscape irrigation system has a PVB (pressure vacuum breaker) or other type of anti-siphon valve
- ✓ Annually test backflow devices using a certified backflow tester
- ✓ Ensure toilets have anti-siphon ballcock assemblies
- ✓ Survey your plumbing system for cross-connections (use a professional)
- ✓ Contact BCVWD if you see suspicious or unauthorized use of a fire hydrant

DON'T

- ✗ Immerse hoses in sinks, tubs, buckets, swimming pools, ponds or standing water
- ✗ Use a hose to clear blocked toilets or sewer pipes
- ✗ Use spray attachments, such as chemical dispensers to fertilize landscaping, without a backflow prevention device (example: hose bib vacuum breaker)
- ✗ Create a cross-connection between your water system and a secondary water system, such as a pool, pond, wells, or other body of water