

Backflow Prevention Survey

The following survey will help us identify potential cross-connections on your property. If you are not sure if you have a potential cross-connection, check the "maybe" in the survey and we can help you investigate.

Mail completed survey to:

BRWA Backflow Prevention 1723 Falling Creek Rd.
Bedford, VA 24523

Complete survey online: Visit www.brwa.com. Click Public

Information and then click Backflow Prevention. Survey is on the bottom of the page.

Bedford Regional Water Authority

BACKFLOW PREVENTION PROGRAM



**Bedford
Regional
Water Authority**

540.586.7679
backflow@brwa.com

Working together to protect your drinking water supply

Potential Cross-Connection Sources Where Backflow Can Occur

Please check all that apply

Do you have this on your property?

Yes No Maybe

Potential Cross-Connection Sources Where Backflow Can Occur Please check all that apply	Do you have this on your property?		
	Yes	No	Maybe
Outside Spigots			
Outside spigots without vacuum breaker			
Yard hydrant or yard spigot/standpipe			
Wells & Irrigation Systems Not Protected by a Backflow Device (Connected to Public Water)			
Private well, spring or cistern			
Lawn irrigation/sprinkler system - supplied by a pond/lake			
Lawn irrigation/sprinkler system - supplied by public water			
Pools, Ponds & Hot Tubs not Protected by a Backflow Device (Connected to Public Water)			
Hot tub/Jacuzzi			
Water storage tank			
Swimming pool			
Ornamental / Fish ponds or fountains			
Animal watering trough			
Internal Plumbing not Protected by a Backflow Device (Connected to Public Water)			
Fire protection sprinkler system			
Solar/steam water heating system			
Water filtration/water softener/booster pumps			
Darkroom/photo development			
Medical treatment system (such as dialysis machine)			
Mop/laundry/utility sink with hose bibb thread			
Dye Vat			
Shampoo bowl/sink			
Baptism pool			
Carbonated drink machine			
Anything Else? Are there any other items or treatment units connected to the water system on your property?			

Name:

Address:

Contact email and/or phone:

Protect Your Drinking Water

Important information on backflow prevention and identifying cross-connections.



Steps to protect your drinking water

1

Help us **identify potential locations** in our service area where backflow can occur. Mail the attached short survey or complete it online at www.brwa.com (go to Public Information/Backflow Prevention).

2

If necessary, contact the Water Authority to **schedule a free assessment** with our staff to assist you in finding and removing any potential cross-connection sources.

3

Remove any cross-connections you find or install an approved backflow prevention device (available at hardware stores) where needed. A Water Authority representative is available to assist you with this process if needed.

4

If you have a backflow prevention device installed by a certified plumber, have it tested annually or after any repairs.

Need help?... Whether you found a cross-connection in your home or you aren't even sure where to start looking, we can help.

We have licensed technicians who are available to help you identify where backflow can occur on your property.

The service call is free!

Contact the Water Authority at 540-586-7679 or backflow@brwa.com

WHAT IS A CROSS-CONNECTION?

A cross-connection is an actual or potential connection or link between the Water Authority's potable water system or your (the consumer) water system and ANY source of non-potable liquid, solid, or gas that could contaminate the potable water supply by backflow. Backflow is the reversed flow of water (or other liquid, solid, or gas from any source) back into the potable water system by either back siphonage or back pressure.

Back siphonage is backflow caused by a negative pressure (vacuum or partial vacuum) in the potable water system. Back siphonage occurs when the system's pressure is reduced below atmospheric pressure. The effect is similar to sipping water through a straw.

Example: Homeowner "Bob" has connected a pesticide bottle to his garden hose and starts treating the lawn. At the same time, the potable water system is being flushed, which creates a partial vacuum in the water main supplying Bob's house. If Bob does not have an atmospheric vacuum breaker attached at his hose connection, the pesticide can be siphoned back through the hose and into the potable water system. The contaminated water can then flow directly into Bob's home and/or other homes in Bob's neighborhood.

Backflow by **back pressure** occurs when the non-potable system's pressure *exceeds* the potable water system pressure. The effect is similar to blowing air through a straw to create bubbles at the other end. Back pressure can force or push an undesirable contaminant into your drinking water. Sources of backpressure may be pumps in the distribution system, boiler units, heat exchange devices, or power washing equipment.

Example: At ACME Industry, hot and cold water feed a pump operating at 75 psi with the discharge side of the pump connected to a gun-type spray nozzle. A hose connects a chemical tank to the pump, which supplies a chemical and water mixture to the spray gun.

The pump is left on between cycles, and the pump pressure of 75 psi overcomes the city water pressure of 50 psi causing the chemical to backflow from ACME Industry and into the supply water main. A customer at a nearby mall reports a bad taste in the water which eventually leads to the discovery of the backflow condition.

How can you prevent backflow from occurring?

Working together to protect your drinking water supply. The Bedford Regional Water Authority and all of our customers share the responsibility to help safeguard the public water supply. We are working with the Virginia Department of Health and our customers to identify potential backflow issues so that your drinking water quality is maintained at the highest possible level.

The most common cause of a cross-connection is one of the most over-looked items in the home - a garden hose. Hoses left submerged in swimming pools, landscaping ponds, or buckets or attached dispensers containing cleaning chemicals or pesticides are a cross-connection problem waiting to happen.

Per building codes, a hose-bib vacuum breaker should be attached to all outside spigots (hose-bib vacuum breaker must be winterized). This device will help prevent a cross-connection, ensuring that your drinking water remains clean and safe.

