**Backflow can pollute or contaminate the water that the community relies upon.**

*Example of a municipal water meter.*

## HAVE A BACKFLOW PREVENTOR?

The Virginia Department of Health Waterworks Regulations (VWR) requires public water systems to be protected through effective cross-connection controls. The BRWA is responsible for making sure this is achieved through the proper installation and maintenance of appropriate backflow prevention devices.

If you have a backflow prevention device, our program requires:

- Owner shall have operational tests of backflow prevention devices performed at least annually.
- Operational testing or work shall be performed by a qualified individual.
- Owner shall provide copies of the assembly test results, maintenance records, and overhaul records to the BRWA within 30 days of completion of such testing or work.

**NOTE:**
If a required backflow prevention assembly is not installed, tested, and maintained following the Cross Connection Control and Backflow Prevention Program, the BRWA may discontinue or refuse water services.

If services are discontinued or refused due to the above, service will not be restored until all discrepancies have been corrected.

Bedford Regional Water Authority

### Visit Us

1723 Falling Creek Road
Bedford, VA 24523

### Hours Of Operation

Monday - Friday
8:30$^{AM}$ - 5$^{PM}$

### Visit Our Website

www.brwa.com

### Follow Us

**CROSS-CONNECTION AND BACKFLOW RESOURCES:**
For more information regarding the BRWA's Cross-Connection and Backflow Prevention Program, please visit:

https://bit.ly/47wWDaS

A Backflow Assembly Test, Maintenance Form, and a list of Certified Backflow Testers can be found at the link above.

Bedford Regional Water Authority

# Cross-Connection & Backflow Prevention Program

PROTECTING YOUR WATER TODAY

**WWW.BRWA.COM**

## WHAT'S A CROSS CONNECTION?

A cross-connection is any temporary or permanent connection between a public water system or consumer's potable (i.e., drinking) water system and any source or system containing nonpotable water or other substances.

An example is the piping between a public water system and an auxiliary water system, cooling system, or irrigation system.

*Example of a residential irrigation backflow preventor.*

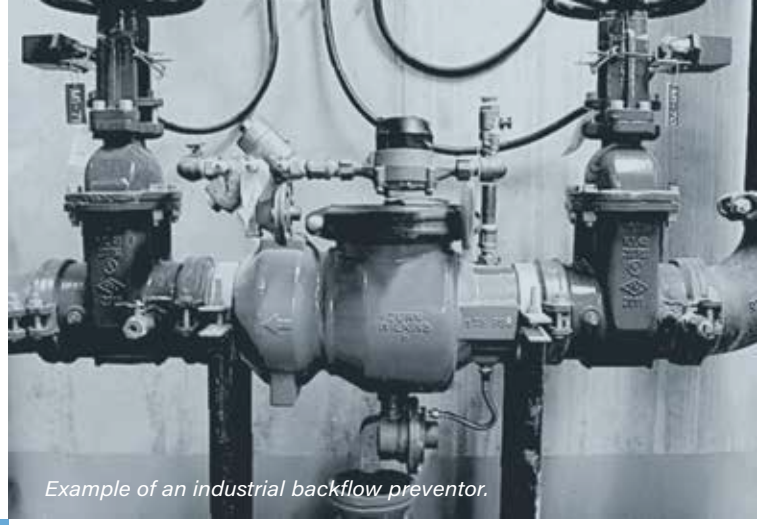
## WHAT'S BACKFLOW?

Backflow is the undesirable reversal of flow of nonpotable water or other substances through a cross-connection and into the piping of a public water system or consumer's potable water system. There are two types of backflow - backpressure backflow and backsiphonage.

**Backpressure backflow -** caused by a downstream pressure that is greater than the upstream or supply pressure in a public water system or consumer's potable water system.

**Backsiphonage -** caused by negative pressure in a public water system or consumer's potable water system.

# "Providing Quality Service To Everyone"



*Example of an industrial backflow preventor.*

## WHY'S PREVENTION NECESSARY?

Backflow prevention is a matter of protecting the quality and safety of our water supply.

Backflow prevention helps to ensure that dangerous contaminants, such as microorganisms, bacteria, noxious chemicals, heavy metals, gases, and other potentially threatening pollutants/substances do not enter the community's potable water system.

*Contaminated water coming out of the tap.*

## HOW TO PREVENT BACKFLOW?

The basic means of preventing backflow is an air gap, which either eliminates a cross-connection or provides a barrier to backflow. The basic mechanism for preventing backflow is a mechanical backflow preventer, which provides a physical barrier to backflow.

There are many products available to help prevent backflow, such as - double check valve assemblies (DC), pressure vacuum breaker assemblies (PVB), and reduced-pressure principle assemblies (RP).

## DO I NEED A BACKFLOW PREVENTOR?

The type of backflow prevention required is determined by the degree of hazard. This means that the severity of the actual or potential hazard will dictate the level of protection necessary to protect the community's drinking water.

Here are a few examples of places that would require a backflow assembly: structures with a sprinkler system, an area with a commercial irrigation system, car washes, dentist offices, hospitals, mortuaries, and gas stations.