

Backflow: Protecting Your Water 2020



Help Us Protect Your Drinking Water
By Following These Simple Steps
To Prevent Potential Backflow Events

City of Girard Water Department



Simple Ways to Keep it Safe

- Don't Put Hoses in Buckets When Filling.
- Don't Leave Hoses Laying In Utility Sinks.
- Don't Leave Hoses In Pool During or After Filling.
- Don't Put Hose In Any Chemical Sprayer Bottle When Filling.
- Use Proper Backflow Devices To Ensure Your Drinking Water Safety.
- Always Leave An Air Gap of at Least Two Inches When Filling Any Source.

Backflow: is the reverse flow of foreign materials into the water mains. Cross connections allow for backflow to occur through back-siphonage.

Cross Connections: are connections between the potable water system and anything that could allow dangerous and objectionable material to enter the water supply lines.

Backsiphonage: is a reversal of normal flow in a system caused by a negative pressure (vacuum or partial vacuum) in the supply piping. ... Backpressure is the reversal of normal flow in a system due to an

Our Responsibility.

The City of Girard Water Department is responsible for ensuring the water delivered to your home is safe for everyone to drink, but it cannot control what happens at your residence. Because of this the City of Girard Water Department needs your help in protecting your home and the public water system from the danger backflow.

Your Responsibility.

Chemicals such as those used to fertilize your lawn and those used for cleaning around your house can cause a variety of serious health problems if ingested.

Irrigation water is often untreated and unsafe to drink.

Even chlorinated water found in pools can contain bacteria that may be harmful or hazardous if consumed.

Fortunately, as a consumer of a public water supply, it is your responsibility to keep the drinking water safe as well, by keeping these contaminants, and others like them from entering into your drinking water system at home. You can do this by:

Never: submerging hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, sinks, or other containers.

Always: keep hose ends clear of possible contaminants. An air gap of two inches (23 mm) or more between the hose end and the receptacle is the safest way of preventing backflow and backsiphonage.

Think of how a sink faucet is designed

to be above the

overflow rim.

Home Backflow Prevention Made Easy

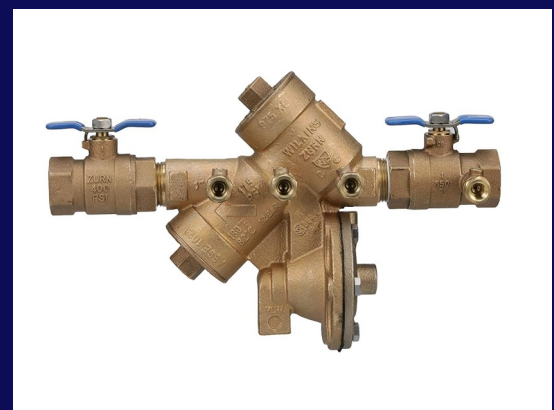
By installing an inexpensive backflow-prevention device called a hose bibb, you can help protect our water supply. This is designed for use on all threaded faucets around your home (See photo below). They are available at hardware stores and home improvement centers. Installation only takes a few minutes. If your drinking water is in any way connected to another source, like the irrigation system, you will need to install a proper backflow preventer, such as a reduced-pressure principle device, as required by law. (see Second Photo Below.



Never: Use spray attachments containing chemicals on hoses without a proper backflow prevention device. The chemicals used on your lawn or for cleaning are toxic and can be fatal if ingested

Consider These Real Life Situations For The Need For Backflow

- While a resident was filling a pesticide sprayer with a garden hose, the water pressure dropped. Because the hose end was immersed in the pesticide, the pesticide was sucked back into the hose and into the water supply. A short time later, the resident, as well as several neighbors, became ill after drinking water from the faucet's in their homes.
- Parasitic worms were discovered in the domestic water of two home-owners. Water backsiphoned through a residential irrigation system into the public water system because of a faulty backflow preventer on the residential irrigation system. When a nearby water main break caused a vacuum in the public water system, dirty, wormy water was sucked from the irrigation system into the public water system.
- A resident was treated in a hospital when his body was covered with blisters after taking a shower. Investigation revealed that sodium hydroxide from a nearby chemical company had back flowed into the public water system due to a major water break in the water main. This happened because the truck driver was adding water from a private hydrant through the bottom of the truck to force the sodium hydroxide into the holding tank, at the time the water main broke.



Backflow Prevention Is Not Something To be Taken Lightly.

It takes an effort from everyone to keep our drinking water safe from contamination. By practicing safety when using chemical and lawn sprayers, make sure a hose bibb is attached to the spigot first before proceeding.

But the best practice is to not use these types of devices . You can use a sprayer, just do not place the hose inside the sprayer bottle.

If you have any questions on backflow, what devices may be needed or if you have any other question. Please feel free to contact the water department at the numbers below.

References

American Water Works Association AWWA, 2012.



City of Girard Water Department

If You Have Any Questions
About Backflow Feel Free To
Contact

City of Girard Water Department

100 West Main Street
Girard, OH. 44420

330.545.5857 ph

Or

Contact Mike Scoville
234.600.0672 cell

www.cityofgirard.com