

Backflow Prevention Survey

We're asking all our customers to help us identify potential areas where a backflow can occur on their property by completing this simple survey. Not sure if something applies to your property? Check the box on the survey that says "maybe" and we can help you investigate.

On-Line

www.westernvawater.org
Click on Backflow Prevention Survey in the bottom right corner

Thank you for working with us to protect your drinking water.

By Mail

Mail this survey to
WVWA Backflow Prevention
601 S. Jefferson St.
Roanoke, VA 24011

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 a vacuum breaker

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

water storage tank

Pools, Ponds & Hot Tubs not Protected by a Backflow Device (Connected to Public Water)

hot tub

swimming pool

fish pond

Internal Plumbing Not Protected by a Backflow Device (Connected to Public Water)

fire protection sprinkler system

solar heating system

water softener

water filtration system

darkroom/photo development

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: _____

Western Virginia Water Authority

BACKFLOW PREVENTION PROGRAM



WESTERN VIRGINIA
WATER AUTHORITY

540.853.5700

backflow@westernvawater.org

Working together to protect your drinking water supply

Important information on backflow prevention and identifying cross-connections.

Protect Your Drinking Water



A **plumbing cross-connection** is an actual or potential connection between the public water supply and any source of contamination or pollutant. Through this connection, contaminated substances could **backflow** into the public system and your drinking water supply without proper plumbing precautions.

Water travelling through the Authority's distribution system is pressurized. If the water system loses pressure, such as during a water main break, maintenance of the system or flowing of a fire hydrant, the flow of the water may be reversed. If a customer has made a cross-connection with hazardous substances or even non potable water, these substances can backflow into the public water system and create a risk to public health.

Working together to protect your drinking water supply. The Western Virginia Water Authority *and* all our customers share the responsibility to help safeguard the public water supply. We are working closely with the Virginia Department of Health and our customers to identify potential backflow issues so your drinking water maintains the highest possible quality.



Where Can the Contamination Occur?

Backflow to the public water supply can occur anywhere a customer connects water pipes, water fixtures or even a hose to non potable water or chemicals.

In tubs, sinks and buckets... Hoses left submerged in swimming pools, kitchen or laundry sinks, bath tubs, animal watering troughs or buckets can pull untreated water into your drinking water.

Through your garden hose... If your outside faucet is not protected by a hose-bib vacuum breaker, chemical sprayers such as weed killers that are attached to a hose can backflow through your hose into your home's plumbing system.

Through your faucet... A faucet submerged into another liquid can be a cross-connection whereby the substance could backflow into your plumbing.

How can you prevent backflow from occurring?

Per building codes, a hose-bib vacuum breaker should be attached to all outside spigots. This device prevents water from backflowing if water pressures drop. When using a hose or faucet, always leave at least a one inch (1") gap between the end of any water hose/faucet and the source of any potential contamination.

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.westernvawater.org (see Backflow Prevention Survey in the bottom right corner).
- 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 backflow prevention devices (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 853-5700 or backflow@westernvawater.org