## **CITY OF GRETNA PLUMBING BACKFLOW REQUIREMENT**

**THE LAW** Louisiana Administrative Code 51:XII & 17:1 requires public water suppliers to protect their water systems from cross-connections and prevent backflow situations. Public water suppliers must evaluate any cross-connection hazards posed by their customers. If a customer has a cross connection hazard, the customer will be required to eliminate the hazard and/or install a backflow prevention device.

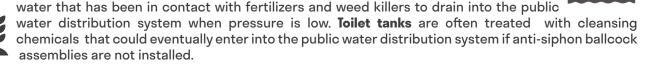
**OUR RESPONSIBILITY** In Louisiana, the responsibility for preventing backflow is divided. In general, state and local plumbing codes have authority over plumbing systems within buildings, while the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals regulates protection of the water distribution system.

**OUR VULNERABILITY** Our water system is particularly vulnerable to backflow contamination because most people are unaware of the dangers associated with backflow issues.

WHAT IS BACKFLOW AND CROSS-CONNECTION? Within the context of the water industry, **backflow** is a reversal of the flow of water from the customer's plumbing system back to the public water supply. This condition can occur when there is a loss of pressure in the public water system's distribution lines, allowing water from the customers plumbing to drain or siphon back into the public water distribution lines buried beneath the ground.

A **cross-connection** is any physical connection between a potable water supply and a non-potable water supply, or one of questionable water quality.

WHAT HAZARDS CAN OCCUR FROM BACKFLOW AND CROSS-CONNECTIONS? A submerged garden hose is the most common offender when used to fill laundry sinks, swimming pools, lawn sprayers, aquariums, etc. Lawn sprinkler systems with sprinkler heads installed below the ground level can also allow



## HOW CAN I PREVENT DRINKING WATER CONTAMINATION?

1. Be aware of and eliminate

cross-connections.

2. Maintain air gaps. Do not submerge hoses or place them where they can become submerged.

 Use hose bibb vacuum
 breakers (SHOWN) on fixtures (hose connections in the laundry room and outside faucets).



4. Make sure toilets have anti-siphon ballcock assemblies.

5. Install approved, testable backflow prevention devices on lawn irrigation systems.

6. Install an approved testable backflow prevention device at your homes water service connection.

9. Do not create a connection between an auxiliary water system (well, cistern, body of water) and the water supply plumbing.

## HOW DO I COMPLY?

1. Implement the recommendations outlined in this brochure.

2. If you have an in-ground sprinkler or irrigation system, you must have an approved, testable backflow prevention device. Installations should be made in accordance with the Louisiana State Plumbing Code. Customers must also provide proof annually that the backflow prevention device has been inspected by a certified tester. Lawn irrigation installers or licensed plumbers can provide these services.

3. It is illegal to directly connect a private well or auxiliary water system to a public water supply, even if a gate valve or check valve is used to separate the two.

4. Use hose bibb vacuum breakers (\$8 in hardware stores or online) on all outdoor spigots.

5. Return the Water Survey on the back of this page.





QUESTIONS? Contact Interim Public Utilities Director Ron Johnson, rjohnson@gretnala.com or (504) 363-1543 or Plumbing Inspector Gil Boudreaux, gboudreaux@gretnala.com or (504) 355-5794

CITY	0	GRETNA	LUMB	ING B	ACI	KFL	<b>.OW REQUIREMENT</b>	
W		ER US	E S	UR	V	E	RETURN YOUR COMPLETED SURVEY TO GRETNA WATER DEPARTMENT PO BOX 404 GRETNA, LA 70054-0404	
TO AVOID DISRUPTED SERVICE, THIS WATER USE SURVEY <b>MUST</b> BE RETURNED TO OUR OFFICE WITHIN ONE WEEK FROM RECEIPT OF THIS MAILING. YOU MAY ALSO DOWNLOAD THIS SURVEY FROM gretnala.com/departments/public-utilities AND EMAIL YOUR COMPLETED SURVEY TO <b>BACKFLOW@GRETNALA.COM</b> .								
CUSTOMER				PHONE				
SERVICE AD	DRESS				CITY		STATE ZIP	
CHECK ONE THAT DESCRIBES YOUR PROPERTY: Single-family residence Multiple-family residence Commercial Industrial Municipal The following is a list of plumbing profiles which will require the appropriate backflow prevention devices or method of containment/ isolation. Please check all plumbing profiles that currently exist on your premises. ONLY THOSE WITH THE LISTED PLUMBING PROFILES SHALL CHECK THE YES OR NO BOXES. CHECK YES IF YOU OWN A BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE AND NO IF YOU DO NOT.								
YES	NO	REDUCED PRESSURE PRINC BACKFLOW PREVENTION (RP) DEVICE REQUIRED			YES	NO	DOUBLE CHECK VALVE ASSEMBLY (DC) DEVICE REQUIRED	
		Hospitals/Outpatient Surgical F Renal Dialysis Facility, Veterinar					Fire Protection/Sprinkler Systems (a detector type double check valve is recommended on unmetered fire lines)	
		Funeral Home, Mortuaries Car Wash					Multiple residential dwelling units served by a master meter	
		Sewerage Facility (Home Treat Not Included)	ment Plants				Multistoried Office/Commercial Buildings (over floors)	
	H	Chemical or Petroleum Proces	0				Jails, Prisons, and Other Places of Detention or Incarceration	
		Animal/Poultry Feedlots or Broo Metal Plating Plants Food/Meat Processing Plants Processing Plants	-		YES	NO	PRESSURE VACUUM BREAKER Assembly (PVB) / Spill Resistant Vacuum Breaker Assembly (SVB) Device Required	
		Fire Protection/Sprinkler Sys Antifreeze	tems Using				Irrigation/Lawn Sprinkler System	
		Irrigation/Lawn Sprinkler Syste	ms with		YES	NO	<b>CONTAINMENT/ISOLATION REQUIRED</b>	
		Fertilizer Injection Marinas/Docks Radiator Shops					Fire protection/sprinkler using non-potable water as an alternative or primary source of water Private Well	
		Commercial Pesticide/Herbicio				Н	Swimming Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs Ornamental Fountains	
		Photo/X-Ray/Film Processing La Multiple Commercial Units Serv			H	Н	Cooling Towers	
		by a Master Meter	cu .				Chemical Tanks	
		Any type of occupancy or any o facility having one or more Si Heat Exchangers which uses a	ngle-walled				Commercial Dishwashers in Commercial Establishments	
		additive, or corrosion inhibitor heating/cooling medium	etc., in the		H	H	Baptismal Fonts Animal Watering Troughs	
		Premises where access/entry i prohibited	S	•			Agricultural Chemical Mixing Tanks Water Hauling Tank Trucks	
IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO ANY OF THE ABOVE CATEGORIES, ANSWER THE QUESTIONS IN THE FOLLOWING BOX:								
-				-				
CHECK THE BOX IF YOU HAVE A BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE ALREADY INSTALLED								
	Assembly (RP) Manufacturer:					Dod	real Parenting Backford (2000)	
Double Check Valve Assembly (DC) Model: Reduced Pressure Backflow Prevention Assembly (RP) Double check valve assembly (DC) Serial No.:								
	Pressure Vacuum Breaker Assembly (PVB) Size:							
Spill-Resistant Pressure Vacuum Breaker Assembly (SVB)								
	ther lot Sure						Pressure Vacuum Breaker Assembly (PVB) Spill-Resistant Pressure Vacuum Breaker Assembly (SVB)	

Please note, if you require one of the listed plumbing profiles in the future, you must request a Water Use Survey Form and submit the executed form to our office.

SIGNATURE

DATE