

Cross Connection Control - Backflow Prevention Program

The City of The Dalles supplies drinking water to our community that meets the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Oregon Health Division requirements for public health and safety. Although the water delivered to your home or business is safe, it can be contaminated within property owners' own plumbing systems without their knowledge and could degrade water quality in the rest of the City through backflow into the City water mains. Most new water-using equipment and appliances have built in backflow prevention features. Still there are some that do not and still others that do not meet Oregon requirements. Yard irrigation systems, boilers, some solar heating systems, fire sprinkler systems, spas and swimming pools are just a few examples of systems that do not have built-in backflow protection features and require added protection. Backflow prevention devices can be installed on the customers piping system to keep water that has passed through the water meter from flowing back into the City's water system.

The City administers a Cross Connection Control program to ensure that backflow prevention devices are installed where necessary and tested annually by a State-certified tester. The program requires that the City perform a water use survey of all properties that receive water from the City system to determine if there is a need for backflow protection. The Cross-Connection Control Specialist from the Public Works Department carries out the survey after notification by letter to the property owner. This program is required by Oregon law and City Ordinance to protect water quality. Public Works currently monitors 816 backflow prevention devices within the City.

Backflow prevention devices must be tested annually to ensure that they are working properly. It is the responsibility of the property owner to have this test done and to make sure a copy of the test report is sent to the Public Works Department. Failure to install a device when needed or to test it annually may force the City, by law, to discontinue water service until compliance is met.

If you have a backflow prevention device on your property, please do your part to ensure a safe drinking water supply for everyone. Make sure your device is tested annually and make any needed repairs immediately. If you would like to know if a device is required at your property, feel free to call Arlo Langford, Cross Control Specialist for the Public Works Department, at 296-5401, extension 2013, or by e-mail at arlo_langford@ci.the-dalles.or.us.