

Backflow Prevention and the Safety of Our Drinking Water

What is Backflow?

Backflow occurs when water flows opposite to its normal or intended direction.

Under normal conditions water flows in one direction, from the water system into the pipes of your property. When the normal flow of water is reversed; that is, from the pipes on the property back into the water system, it is referred to as backflow. Backflow can result in a public health risk, if it allows pollutants or contaminants such as chemicals to enter the drinking water supply from your property.

Water pressure can be affected when:

- There is a break in the water main which supplies your property
- Water is being pumped from the main water supply during a fire.
- Heavy water use in the main water system reduces water pressure to your property.

A properly working and maintained backflow device will ensure water flows safely by trapping water that begins to flow in the wrong direction.

Backflow prevention devices must be inspected annually by a licensed Backflow tester to ensure they are operating properly.

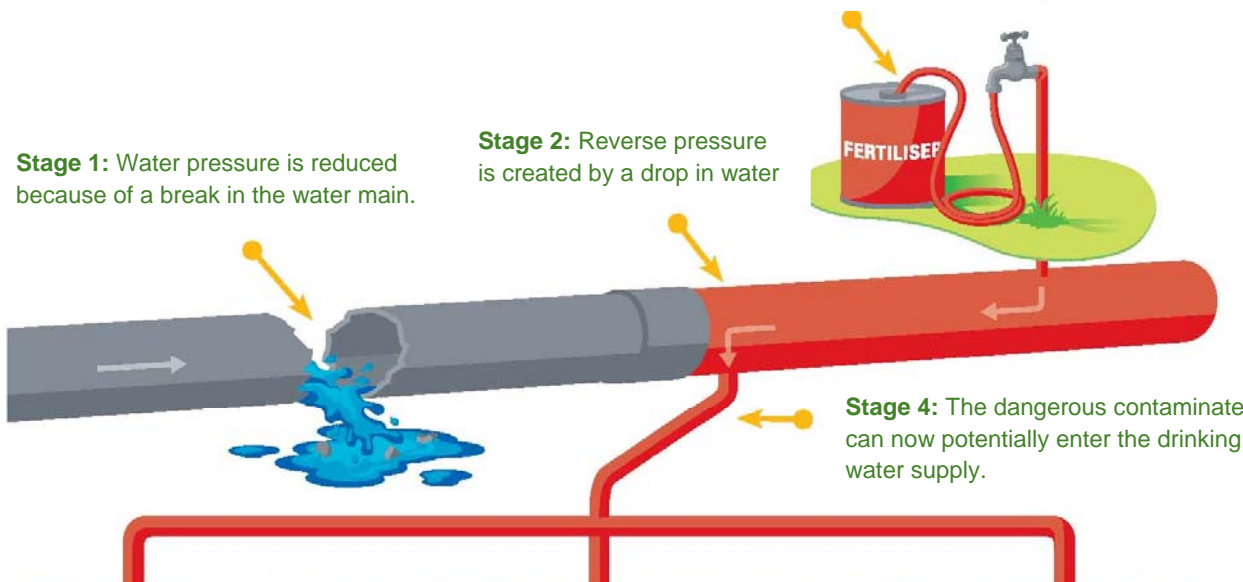
If the City does not receive a copy of the annually backflow test report by the due date, a notice will be mailed to the property owner informing them that the inspection is past due. If your property's water system is ever connected to any source of pollution and you do not have a backflow prevention device, you need to have one installed immediately to protect the health and safety of your family, employees, and neighbors.

How Backflow Happens

Stage 1: Water pressure is reduced because of a break in the water main.

Stage 2: Reverse pressure is created by a drop in water

Stage 3: A hose left in a bucket or tank to mix chemicals such as fertilizer now has the potential to contaminate the water supply.



Stage 4: The dangerous contaminate can now potentially enter the drinking water supply.

