

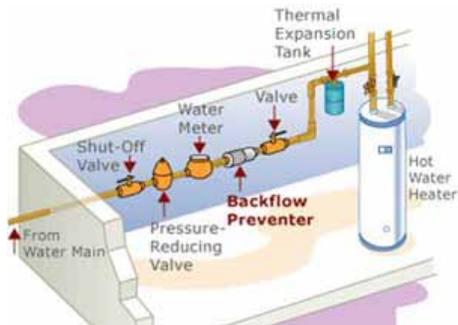


Important information about the new cross connection and backflow prevention requirements

What is cross connection and backflow prevention?

A cross connection is any actual or potential connection between the municipal drinking water system and any source of pollution or contamination.

Wherever there is a cross connection, there is potential for contaminated water to enter the Town's drinking water. Backflow prevention devices are designed to prevent this from happening.



Who is responsible for backflow prevention?

Property owners and occupants are responsible for:

- **Installation** - ensuring backflow prevention devices are installed where required by the National Plumbing Code of Canada; and
- **Annual testing** - ensuring backflow prevention devices are tested annually. Backflow prevention devices can only be tested by a certified tester. A list of certified testers is available at www.banff.ca or by calling 403.762.1240.



Commercial, Institutional, and Multi-Residential Properties

Beginning in July, 2010, your annual fire inspection will include a check for compliance with cross connection control regulations set out in the Town of Banff Water Services Bylaw 157-1.

The Fire Inspector will be checking to see:

- If backflow prevention devices are installed where required by the National Plumbing Code of Canada; and
- If existing devices have been tested by a certified tester within the last year.

If the Fire Inspector finds you are not in compliance, you will be given a period of time in which to have devices installed or tested.

For a list of certified testers:

- Visit our website: www.banff.ca
- Call the Town's operations department at 403.762.1240

Residential Properties

In general, residential homes (other than multi-residential) are considered a low hazard and may not require the installation of a backflow prevention device at the water meter.

The Town will not be inspecting residential properties (other than multi-residential) for backflow prevention devices.

Homeowners should make sure there is a backflow device installed and checked annually by a certified tester if one of the following is present:

- A boiler
- A sprinkler system
- An above-ground or underground irrigation system
- A swimming pool

If you are a homeowner and are wondering if you need to have a backflow device installed or tested, contact:

- The company that installed the system;
- A certified tester; or
- The Town of Banff at 403.762.1240

Typical cross connections

Cross connections are present wherever anything is connected to the water system.

Typical examples include:

- Boilers
- Sprinkler systems
- Irrigation systems
- Swimming pools

Cross connections commonly occur at:

- Automotive Repair Shops
- Car Washes
- Commercial Laundries
- Hospitals & Dental Clinics
- Hotels
- Laboratories
- Photo Processing Labs
- Schools
- Veterinary Clinics
- Large commercial and institutional properties
- Large multi-residential properties
- Residential homes with a boiler, sprinkler system, irrigation system, water softening system, or swimming pool

How to prevent contamination of your drinking water

Do:

- Keep the ends of hoses clear of all possible contaminants.
- If not already equipped with a built-in vacuum breaker, buy and install hose connection vacuum breakers on all threaded faucets around your home. These devices are inexpensive and are available at hardware stores and home improvement centres.

Don't:

- Submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, sinks, ponds, gutters or other bodies of standing water.
- Use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device.
- Connect waste pipes from water softeners or other treatment systems to the sewer or submerged drain pipes.
- Use a hose to unplug blocked toilets or sewers.



Protecting Our
drinking water



For more information:

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