**Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection Control**

The Western Water Company must provide a safe and reliable source of drinking water to all customers and protect the public water system from any possible source of contamination.  It is possible that a source of contamination may come from our own customers.

As required by the Ohio EPA (OAC 3745-95), the Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection Control Program helps to ensure the water that is delivered to every customer is meeting water quality standards.

**Residential Water Customers**
At a minimum, the Western Water Company requires a dual check backflow prevention device to be installed at your residence just after your water meter.  This protects the public water system.  However, a cross-connection at your residence can create a potential health risk to you and your family due to the backflow of contamination into your drinking water piping.  See below for more information.  If you are unsure if a potential cross-connection exists at your property or have questions, please contact us at: 513-899-3211or kmeeker@western-h2o.com

**Commercial and Industrial Water Customers – Annual Testing of Backflow Prevention Devices**
All backflow prevention devices are required to be tested annually.   The tests are performed at the expense of the customer and shall be performed by a person qualified to inspect and test backflow prevention devices.  Inspectors must be certified by the State of Ohio or a licensed plumber. The annual test results are required to be submitted to the Western Water Company.

**What is a cross-connection?**
Any physical connection created between a possible source of contamination and any public water system piping.

**What is backflow?**
The flow of water or other liquids or substances through a cross connection from a possible source of contamination back into the public water system.

**How can a backflow occur?**
When a cross-connection is created and a pressure reversal, either as backsiphonage or backpressure occurs in the water supply piping.

**What is a backflow prevention device?**
Any device intended to prevent the backflow of water from a customer water system to the public water system.  These devices are typically installed close to the water meter.

(Note: A customer can also install additional backflow prevention devices on their piping system to protect their internal water system.  Check with your plumber for guidance.)

**What are some common potential backflow hazards?**

* Water operated sump pumps.
* Hose connections to chemical distributors such as lawn fertilizer or herbicides.
* Hose connections to a water outlet or laundry tub.
* Lawn irrigation systems.
* Swimming pools or hot tubs.
* Boiler heating systems that are connected to the potable water supply.
* Private water supplies such as wells.
* Industrial or Commercial processes.

**How can I reduce the potential for cross-connections and backflow hazards?**

* Eliminate any known cross-connections if possible.
* Do not submerge hoses in tubs, pools, buckets.
* Use hose bib vacuum breakers.
* Use a backflow prevention device on a water operated sump pump.
* Use a backflow prevention device on an irrigation system.