

OTAY WATER DISTRICT'S CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM



The Otay Water District is committed to providing its customers with safe and reliable drinking water. One key safeguard is its Cross-Connection Control Program, which ensures the public water system is protected from contaminants. This program complies with local, state, and federal regulations. Below is an overview of cross-connection, backflow, and the steps taken to protect the water system.

WHAT IS A CROSS-CONNECTION?

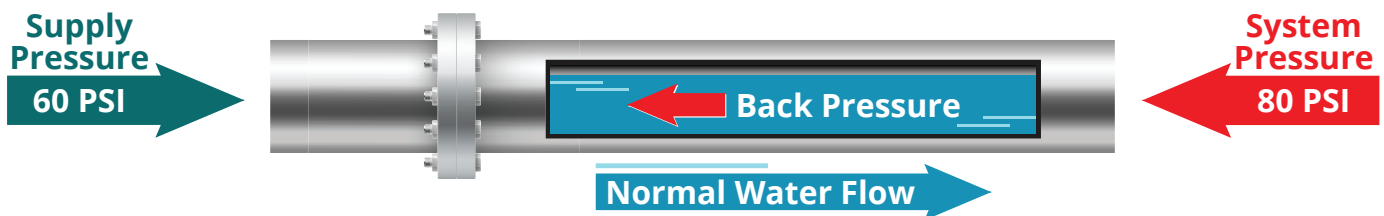
A cross-connection is any direct or potential link between a potable water supply (safe drinking water) and a non-potable source (a water source that could be contaminated). These connections can allow harmful substances, such as chemicals or dirty water, to flow back into the public water system.

WHAT IS BACKFLOW?

Backflow is the unwanted flow of water, liquids, or gases back into the public water system. This can happen if there is a change in pressure, which can cause contaminated water to flow in the opposite direction from where it is supposed to go. Backflow can occur in two main ways: backpressure and backsiphonage.

WHAT IS BACKPRESSURE?

Backpressure occurs when the pressure in a private system exceeds that of the public water system. This causes water to flow backward, potentially allowing contaminants to enter the public water system.



Common examples of sites where backpressure is a concern include:

- Properties with wells or auxiliary water sources
- Sites with elevated storage tanks
- Sites with booster pumps
- Sites with boilers and cooling towers

Questions? Contact:

Otay Water District's Backflow Department at (619) 670-2263
otaywater.gov/backflowcross-connection



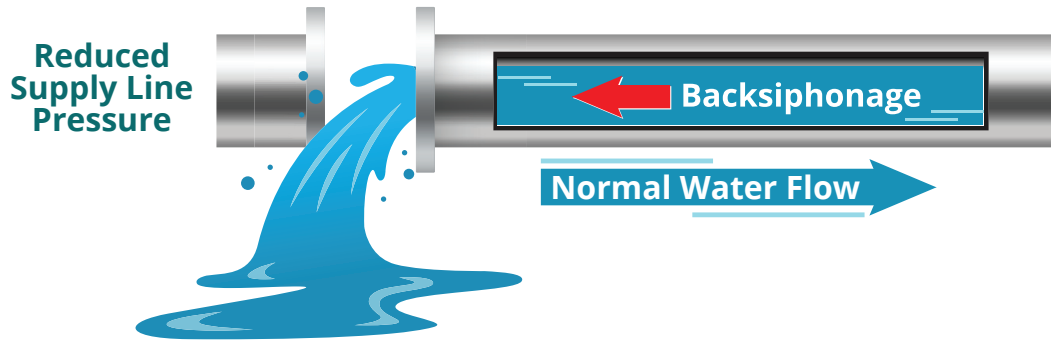
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WHAT IS BACKSIPHONAGE?

Backsiphonage occurs when the pressure in the public water system drops, for example, during a water main break or when there is a high-velocity demand on the system, like the use of a fire hydrant. This drop in pressure can create a vacuum, causing water to flow backward and pulling contaminants into the system.

Simple situations that can cause backsiphonage include:

- A hose left submerged in a pool or spa, where non-potable water could be drawn back into the system.
- A hose left submerged in a container holding household chemicals, where the chemicals can be drawn into the public water system.
- An unprotected supply line feeding a submerged inlet on a tank or holding vessel.



HOW CAN BACKFLOW BE PREVENTED?

The most effective way to prevent backflow is by eliminating cross-connections. If cross-connections cannot be completely eliminated, backflow prevention assemblies are required to be installed.

WHAT IS A BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLY (BPA)?

A BPA is a mechanical device installed in the water supply line to stop contaminants from flowing back into the public system. These devices must be placed as close as possible to the meter or service point. There are different types of BPAs for various hazards. The District will determine the appropriate device for each site.

Important BPA Information:

- BPAs are customer-owned and must be maintained by the property owner.
- BPAs must be tested at least once a year to ensure they are working properly and are compliant with state law.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Preventing backflow is crucial to protecting the safety of the water supply. Without proper protection, harmful substances, including chemicals, bacteria, and other pollutants, could enter the water system and pose serious health risks.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **Check for Cross-Connections:** Inspect your property for any potential connections between your drinking water and non-potable sources.
- **Install BPAs:** If you have any cross-connections, the District may require you to install a BPA.
- **Test Your BPA Annually:** Ensure your backflow prevention device is working properly by scheduling an annual test.

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