

CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

The purpose of this program is to assist owners in identifying potential sources of water contamination, and requirements for installation, testing and repair of cross connection control devices to protect the Town's potable water supply.

All commercial, industrial and institutional buildings are required to eliminate or protect against cross connections that exist on their property. Licensed inspectors must conduct testing and inspections, and provide the results to the Town on an annual basis.

On residential properties, a Dual Check Valve for backflow prevention is required on all new residential properties. Homeowners are encouraged to install a Dual Check Valve after the water meter if there is no other method of backflow prevention present.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

The Town of Blackfalds receives its potable water through the North Red Deer River Water Service Commission (NRDRWSC). While the NRDRWSC is responsible for the treatment of potable water, the Town of Blackfalds Infrastructure Services Department is responsible for the operations and maintenance of the water distribution system within Town limits as per Alberta Environment and Protected Areas requirements.

The Town of Blackfalds in partnership with the NRDRWSC meets its responsibility by supplying excellent drinking water and testing that meets or exceeds Health Canada's "Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water".

LIABILITY

Owners and occupants of all Residential, Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional properties have a responsibility too. If a lack of or malfunction of a cross connection control device resulted in contamination of the Town's potable water, the contamination source can be traced back to a specific property. The responsible owner(s) and occupants may be held liable for fines, water service interruptions, and any resulting damages. Safeguarding Blackfalds' drinking water is everyone's responsibility.

Owners and/or occupants must ensure that no cross connections exist on their property in accordance with the Town of Blackfalds Utility Bylaw, the Alberta Safety Codes Act, the National Plumbing Code of Canada, and the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) B64.10 manual for the "Selection, Installation, and Field Testing of Backflow Prevention Devices."

Together, protecting our drinking water, now and into the future.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact
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January 2024

BLACKFALDS
ALBERTA

CONTAMINATED CROSS CONNECTIONS

A "Cross Connection" refers to an actual or potential link from the Town's potable water system to a contaminated source such as chemicals and/or bacteria that could render the Town's water non-potable or polluted - resulting in a boil water order.

This can occur when a cross connection between our drinking water and a contaminated source such as a garden hose connected to a weed and feed dispenser.

To protect our drinking water, you should eliminate all avoidable cross connections in your plumbing and protect the water supply. At any unavoidable cross connections, an approved cross connection control assembly/device needs to be installed.

BACKFLOW

A backflow is a flowing back or reversal of the normal direction of flow. This reverse or back flow can force harmful chemicals or polluted water back into the Town's safe water supply. A backflow can be caused by a heating system or any other system that operates at a higher pressure than the public water supply.

Backflow can also be caused when a siphon is created by undersized piping or by an interruption of the water supply during plumbing or water utility repairs.

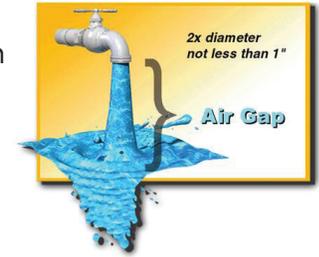
Since all water supplies are subject to backflow, they need to be protected by CSA approved backflow prevention devices.

CSA APPROVED BACKFLOW DEVICES

The potential health hazard created by a cross connection determines the type of device that is required for backflow prevention. Listed below are some common backflow preventers. Contact a plumber or the Town for further details.

Visit our website at www.blackfalds.ca for a current list of qualified Commercial Cross Connection

Inspectors or backflow prevention assembly testers or more information.



TYPICAL CROSS CONNECTIONS

Cross connections are typically caused by connecting the drinking water supply directly to a potential source of contamination such as:

Commercial/Industrial/Institutional Examples

- wash basins and service sinks
- laboratory equipment (i.e. medical, industrial)
- processing tanks
- industrial fluid systems and compressors
- boilers; (i.e. hydronic, steam)
- water re-circulating systems (fire suppression sprinklers)

Residential Examples

- lawn irrigation and sprinkler systems
- garden hoses connected to weed and feed
- dispensers or laying in pools of water
- water conditioners



Double Check Valve Assembly (D.C.V.A.) *



Reduced Pressure Principle Backflow Prevention Assembly (R.P.A.) *



Dual Check Valves (Du.C.V.)



Double Check with Atmospheric Port (D.C.A.P.)



Hose Connection/Vacuum Breakers (H.C.V.B./F.B.V.B.)

*** The industrial or commercial business owner must have the above backflow prevention assemblies installed by a qualified inspector, tested upon installation, and inspect it annually to ensure it is in working order.**