

# CITY OF PATASKALA UTILITY DEPARTMENT

## WHAT IS BACKFLOW PREVENTION?

### **What is backflow?**

The flow through a cross-connection from a possible source of contamination back into the drinking water system. It occurs when a cross-connection is created and a pressure reversal, either as backsiphonage or backpressure, occurs in the water supply piping.

### **Why be concerned?**

• ALL cross-connections pose a potential health risk. • Backflow can be a health hazard for your family or other consumers if contaminated water enters your water supply plumbing system and is used for drinking, cooking or bathing. Chemical burns, fires, explosions, poisonings, illness and death have all been caused by backflow through cross-connections. • Backflow occurs more often than you think. • You are legally responsible for protecting your water supply plumbing from backflow that may contaminate drinking water, either your own or someone else's. This includes complying with the plumbing code and not creating cross-connections.

**What can I do?** • Be aware of and eliminate cross-connections. • Maintain air gaps. Do not submerge hoses or place them where they could become submerged. • Use hose bib vacuum breakers on fixtures (hose connections in the basement, laundry room and outside). • Install approved, testable backflow prevention devices on lawn irrigation systems. • Do not create a connection between an auxiliary water system (well, cistern, body of water) and the water supply plumbing.

### **What must be done to protect the public water system?**

The City of Pataskala Utility Department must determine potential and actual hazards. If a hazard exists at a customer's public water supply service connection, the customer will be required to install and maintain an appropriate backflow prevention device at the meter and/or at the source of the hazard.

### **What are some common backflow hazards that threaten the homeowner and other consumers?**

• Hose connections to chemical solution aspirators to feed lawn and shrub herbicides, pesticides or fertilizers. • Lawn irrigation systems. • Chemically treated heating systems. • Hose connections to a water outlet or laundry tub. • Swimming pools, hot tubs, spas. • Private and/or non-potable water supplies located on the property. • Water-operated sump drain devices. • Feed lots/livestock holding areas or barnyards fed through pipes or hoses from your water supply plumbing.

### **What are examples of cross-connection and backflow scenarios?**

• Soapy water or other cleaning compounds backsiphon into the water supply plumbing through a faucet or hose submerged in a bucket or laundry basin. • Pool water backsiphons into the water supply plumbing through a hose submerged in a swimming pool. • Fertilizers/pesticides backsiphon into the water supply plumbing through a garden hose attached to a fertilizer/pesticide sprayer. • Chemicals/pesticides and animal feces drawn into the water supply plumbing from a lawn irrigation system with submerged nozzles. • Bacteria/chemicals/additives in a boiler system backsiphon into the water supply plumbing. • Unsafe water pumped from a private well applies backpressure and contaminates the public water supply through a connection between the private well discharge and the potable water supply plumbing.

### **Pataskala's Backflow Prevention Program:**



For more information on Pataskala's Backflow Prevention Program type the following link into your internet web browser <http://www.ci.pataskala.oh.us/BackflowPrevention.aspx> or contact the Utility Director, Chris Sharrock at [740-927-4134](tel:740-927-4134) or [csharrock@ci.pataskala.oh.us](mailto:csharrock@ci.pataskala.oh.us)

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