

# Pataskala Utilities Department

## Backflow Prevention Program



The City of Pataskala Utilities Department uses a backflow prevention program to protect the drinking water supply from accidental contamination. If pressure in the public water supply lines drops below the pressure in a building's private water lines, any contaminant connected to the private water lines can be pulled back into the public water supply lines. This creates a potentially hazardous situation by contaminating the public water supply. Backflow prevention devices can be installed to prevent this siphon effect from occurring.

A wide variety of backflow devices are available, each providing a different level of protection. The most common backflow prevention devices use a series of spring loaded diaphragms to ensure that water can only flow in one direction. Should a situation arise that causes the flow to reverse, the diaphragms will close, preventing anything from flowing back into the public water system.

Anything connected to a public water system could provide a contamination risk. For a private residence, things such as lawn fertilizer or detergent bottles that attach to the end of a garden hose or a garden hose left in a swimming pool could allow contamination should a main break or system failure cause a negative pressure situation to the residence. The most common risks, however, are from commercial businesses. Medical facilities, automotive repair shops and food preparation facilities are a few examples of businesses who often have chemical systems connected to the public water supplies. These types of facilities are always required to have a backflow prevention device installed.

Backflow prevention devices, like all mechanical devices, are subject to failure. To ensure that they are working as designed, backflow prevention devices are required to be inspected annually by a certified backflow inspector and a record of that inspection must be filed with the Utility Department. The Utility Department has an employee certified in backflow prevention who tracks the inspections, ensuring that they are up to date.



A full list of required facilities, backflow inspection forms and an explanation of the City's backflow prevention program can be found at <http://www.cityofpataskalaohio.gov/city-departments/utilities/interesting-facts-and-information/> under "Backflow Prevention"

**We are happy to answer any questions at: Utilities Department, 621 W Broad St, 740-964-6275**

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