

## **Backflow and Cross Connection Control**

The Wood Village Cross Connection Program is designed to prevent backflow or backsiphonage of contaminated water into the drinking water supply.

The program includes commercial/industrial and residential customers in accordance with State regulations in an effort to better protect potable (drinking) water systems from potential contamination.

A cross connection is a link between a possible source of pollution and a potable water supply. A pollutant may enter the potable water system when the pressure of the pollution source exceeds the pressure of the potable water source or when a sudden loss of pressure occurs in the water system and "backsiphonage" occurs.

Examples of potential sources of pollution from a residential customer are garden hoses, sprinkler systems, swimming pools, hot tubs, and boiler systems. Based on their frequency of use, garden hoses create the greatest concern for cross connections in the residential setting. Several cases of pollution/contamination have been caused by misuse of the garden hose - hoses left submerged in swimming pools, attached to chemical sprayers, and laying on the ground with exposure to cesspools, garden chemicals, and animal feces.

Testing of cross connection prevention devices must be completed by an Oregon state certified backflow specialist.

### **Why does Wood Village operate this program?**

**The State of Oregon Administrative Rules for Public Water Systems – Cross Connection Control Requirements (OAR 333.061)**, requires “The water user or the owner of the premises where one or more (RPA) Reduced Pressure Assembly, (DCVA) Double Check Valve Assembly, (PVB) Pressure Vacuum Breaker, or (SRVB) Spill Resistant Vacuum Breaker have been installed, have the assemblies tested by a certified tester at least once per year”. “Reports on the tests shall be prepared by the certified tester and copies of the reports shall be provided to the water user or owner of the premises and to the water supplier” (City of Wood Village – Public Works Department).

### **Why was my home selected for a cross-connection inspection and not my neighbors?**

Utilizing our State-approved program, the cross-connection inspections begin by starting with homes that have known cross-connections or high-hazard connections. Crews from our Public Works Department notify the Cross-Connection Unit when they become aware of a known or potential cross-connection problem. That's why your home may have been selected for an inspection when your neighbors did not.

### **I just received a letter, what do I do now?**

If you received a letter stating that you need cross connection devices tested, then you need to hire a plumber that is Oregon state certified in cross connections. You can call

any Oregon state-certified plumber from the attached list, or call Wood Village City Hall at (503) 667-6211 and we would be glad to give you additional names and numbers.

Once the testing is completed and the forms are filled out, either you or the tester can mail or fax (503) 669-8723 the forms back to our office.

If you received a letter stating that part of your system did not pass inspection, you need to arrange to have the violations corrected and the necessary devices fixed or installed. Once this is done, contact our department to notify us that you are ready for a re-inspection.

**How often do residential devices need to be tested?**

Residential customers and devices are **inspected** by every year.

**Who is going to pay for this?**

Inspections are included in your water rates. Any device testing and/or repairs to devices are at the expense of the business or homeowner.

**What if I don't comply?**

We will work with you in every way possible, but if a customer refuses to cooperate and have the devices installed and/or tested, the final step is that the water will be shut off until the devices are in compliance. There are also penalties and fines that are outlined in the local ordinances.

**What if I still have questions?**

If you have any further questions, please call Wood Village City Hall at (503) 667-6211.

Thank you for your cooperation! Remember, by working with us to protect the water quality, you will be protecting yourself, your family, and your neighbors.