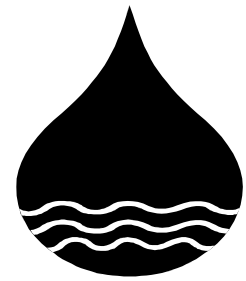




Town of Antigonish

Water Utility

274 Main St.
Antigonish, Nova Scotia



Backflow Prevention

Frequently Asked Questions

Under the Water Utility's Permit to Operate (as issued by the N.S. Dept. of Environment) and in conjunction with the Schedule of Rules and Regulations set out by the N.S. Utility and Review Board, the Utility is working on the implementation of a cross connection control program which requires residential, commercial, and institutional buildings to install a backflow prevention device on their water service lateral to protect our treated water supply.

1 What is backpressure backflow?

Backpressure backflow is the reversal of normal flow in a system due to an increase in the downstream pressure above that of the supply pressure.

2 What is back-siphonage?

Back-siphonage is the reversal of normal flow in a system caused by a negative pressure in the supply piping.

3 What factors can cause these conditions?

Back siphonage can occur when there is a stoppage of the water supply. This can be caused by firefighting, or breaks in a watermain. The effect can be compared to drinking through a straw. Backpressure backflow can occur when the downstream pressure exceeds the supply pressure. An example of this would be a hot-water heater operating at a high pressure with a coincidental drop in supply pressure.

4 What is a cross connection?

A cross connection is a direct arrangement of a piping line which allows the potable water supply to be connected to a line which contains a contaminant.

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5 What is the most common form of a cross connection?

Ironically, the ordinary garden hose is the most common offender as it can be easily connected to the potable water supply and used for a variety of potentially dangerous applications such as liquid fertilizers. It can also come in contact with soil contaminants.

6 What are the methods of Backflow Prevention?

The control of backflow, whether caused by back-siphonage or backpressure, requires the elimination of the cross connection and the installation of a backflow prevention device.

7 Which type of Backflow Prevention device is recommended for residential users?

Two products are recommended to be used in conjunction with each other to eliminate backpressure backflow and back-siphonage. The first product is a **Dual Check Valve Assembly**. This device prevents the reverse flow of possibly contaminated water in a residential system. The second device is an **Expansion Tank**. This device prevents pressure build up in closed systems. The purchase and installation of a **Dual Check Valve Assembly** and an **Expansion Tank** is the responsibility of the home-owner.

8 Is participation in the Town's Backflow Prevention Program mandatory?

Currently, participation in the Town's Backflow Prevention Program is voluntary in *Residential Low-Risk* units. In the future, backflow prevention devices in these units may become mandatory.

The Town of Antigonish is completing its Water-Metering Program. As a part of this program, the Town will be able to monitor the direction of flow on all of the accounts with the Water Utility. If the Water Utility notices an account where backflow is occurring on a consistent basis, the Utility will be in contact with the user to install backflow prevention measures.

9 If I have questions, who should I contact?

If you have any questions on Backflow or the current Water Metering Program please contact the Town of Antigonish Hotline at 863-4949