Backflow Conditions

Cross-Connection

A cross-connection is any temporary or permanent connection between a public water system or consumer's potable (i.e., drinking) water system and any source or system containing non-potable water or other substances. An example is the piping between a public water system or consumer's potable water system and an auxiliary water system, cooling system, or irrigation system.

Backflow

Backflow is the undesirable reversal of flow of non-potable water or other substances through a cross-connection and into the piping of a public water system or consumer's potable water system. There are two types of backflow... backpressure backflow and backsiphonage

Backpressure

Backpressure backflow is backflow caused by a downstream pressure that is greater than the upstream or supply pressure in a public water system or consumer's potable water system. Backpressure (i.e., downstream pressure that is greater than the potable water supply pressure) can result from an increase in downstream pressure, a reduction in the potable water supply pressure, or a combination of both. Increases in downstream pressure can be created by pumps, temperature increases in boilers, etc. Reductions in potable water supply pressure occur whenever the amount of water being used exceeds the amount of water being supplied, such as during water line flushing, firefighting, or breaks in water mains.

Backsiphonage

Backsiphonage is backflow caused by a negative pressure (i.e., a vacuum ~ or partial vacuum) in a public water system or consumer's potable water system. The effect is similar to drinking water through a straw. Backsiphonage can occur when there is a stoppage of water supply due to nearby firefighting, a break in a water main, etc.

Backflow Prevention

A backflow prevention assembly is a means or mechanism to prevent backflow. The basic means of preventing backflow is an air gap, which either eliminates a cross-connection or provides a barrier to backflow. The basic mechanism for preventing backflow is a mechanical backflow preventer, which provides a physical barrier to backflow. The principal types of mechanical backflow preventer are the reduced-pressure principal assembly, the pressure vacuum breaker assembly, and the double check valve assembly.

CITY OF PRESCOTT POLICY REGARDING CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL AND BACKFLOW PREVENTION

All commercial accounts are required to have a reduced pressure principal backflow prevention assembly (RP) installed as close as practicable to the water meter. The specific requirements are spelled out in the City of Prescott City Code §4.7.19, and Quad Cities Standard Detail 324Q-1 (2” and smaller) or 324Q-2 (larger than 2”)