

# Help Keep Our Drinking Water Clean!

Backflow Prevention keeps pollution and contamination out of public water systems and protects drinking water supplies.



## Reduced Pressure (RP) Backflow Assembly

Photo courtesy of Zurn Industries, LLC



## Installing Backflow Prevention Devices

Follow these steps to install, inspect, and certify your new backflow device:

### What is Backflow?

**Backflow** is the undesirable reversal of flow inside a potable water system, which can pollute or contaminate the public potable water system. This can happen when there is a loss of pressure in the public water system, such as during a main break or when a fire hydrant is in use.

### What is Cross-Connection?

A **cross-connection** is any piping that could allow polluted or contaminated water into the potable water system. Some of the common places where cross-connections may occur are:

- Wash Basins & Service Sinks
- Hose Bibs & Garden Hoses
- Irrigation Sprinkler Systems
- Fire Sprinkler Systems

### How Is Backflow Prevented?

Backflow can be prevented by eliminating cross-connections and

**Failure to install and maintain the required backflow prevention device may result in your water service being disconnected.**

installing backflow prevention devices on your water lines.

### Where Must Backflow Devices Be Installed?

All commercial buildings, institutional facilities, industrial facilities, or multifamily residential properties of more than three units must install a reduced pressure (RP) backflow assembly on the property water line. All commercial and residential irrigation systems must also install a reduced pressure device.

Fire lines must have an approved double check valve assembly, and be inspected by a contractor who is certified to work on fire lines.

### Other Things to Keep in Mind:

- The backflow device must be maintained and in good working order at all times.
- Reduced pressure devices cannot be installed in pits that are below grade level.
- Environmental Services requires the installation of a reduced pressure backflow assembly for domestic water lines or irrigation systems.
- Typically, a domestic backflow device must be installed **inside** the building, unless it is protected from cold temperatures.
- Every 12 months, each existing backflow device must be recertified.

### 1. Hire a Certified Backflow Contractor.

After the backflow prevention device is installed, the device must be certified by a backflow certified contractor. For fire lines, the backflow device must be installed and inspected by a certified fire line contractor.

### 2. Make Sure to Get Your Permit.

Before installation, submit a completed application to Montgomery County Environmental Services, and we will approve and issue a permit to your contractor.

### 3. Complete Device Installation.

Your contractor will complete the installation and test the backflow device. Make sure that your contractor installs a thermal expansion tank if one is needed.

### 4. Get Your Device Certified.

After installation, submit proper certification paperwork to Environmental Services. The device must be certified by a backflow certified contractor, and then recertified every 12 months.



A Montgomery County inspector repairs a backflow assembly.

## Our Mission

We serve our community by providing high quality water, wastewater, recycling, and solid waste services to support a sustainable environment.

## Our Vision

To be leaders and trusted stewards of the environment focused on service, collaboration, innovation, and financial responsibility.

## Additional Resources

If you would like to schedule an educational presentation or training session for your organization, please call (937) 781-2650, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information about our backflow prevention program, please call Montgomery County Environmental Services at (937) 781-2650 or visit [www.mcoho.org/water](http://www.mcoho.org/water).

For general information about backflow:

- American Backflow Prevention Association at [www.abpa.org](http://www.abpa.org).
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov).



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## Backflow Prevention & Cross-Connection Control



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Water & Wastewater Services  
1850 Spaulding Road  
Kettering, OH 45432  
[www.mcoho.org/water](http://www.mcoho.org/water)

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