

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.

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 installing backflow prevention devices on your water lines.

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

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.



Our Vision

Improve the quality of life through our environmental services

Our Mission

Provide a better quality of life by managing water, wastewater, recycling, and solid waste

Our Values

Leadership
Communication
Credibility
Customer Service
Empowerment
Relationships
Safety

Additional Resources

- For more information, call Montgomery County Environmental Services at (937) 781-2688 or visit www.mcoho.org/water.
- American Backflow Prevention Association at www.abpa.org
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at www.epa.gov
- For the kids, visit the Dewey & Splash website at www.deweyandsplash.org.



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ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Water & Wastewater Services
1850 Spaulding Road
Kettering, OH 45432
www.mcoho.org/water

Solid Waste & Recycling Services
2550 Sandridge Drive
Moraine, OH 45439
www.mcswd.org



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Backflow Prevention & Cross-Connection Control

