

TESTING YOUR BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY

1. Find a tester

1. The first step in testing your backflow is finding one of our registered certified testers. This list can be found at templetx.gov/backflowtesters

2. Contact the tester of your choice to schedule a date and time for the tester to come to your house and perform the test.

1. Contact information is provided on our certified tester list.

2. The tester is responsible for completing the City of Temple Test & Maintenance form and submitting it to the Environmental Programs office by one of the following:

- i. In person at **1909 Curtis B Elliot; Patsy Luna Bldg** – after hours drop box available
- ii. Email: backflowinfo@templetx.gov
- iii. Mail: **City of Temple; Public Works; Environmental Programs; 3210 E Ave H; #123; Temple, TX 76501**

NOTE: Reports are due no later than 10 days of test date.

HOW CAN BACKFLOW BE PREVENTED?

Backflow is prevented by using an assembly approved by the water supplier or by physical separation (air gap) between the water supply and a potential source of pollution. The water supplier determines the type of backflow preventer required based on the existing or potential degree of hazard.

WHERE ARE SOME COMMON CROSS-CONNECTIONS?

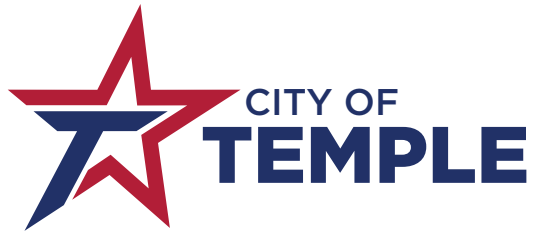
- ★ Hoses connected to water spigot
- ★ Irrigation or lawn sprinkler systems
- ★ Swimming pools and spas
- ★ Fire suppression systems
- ★ Food & beverage processing equipment
- ★ Bag-in-a-box soda dispensers
- ★ Coffee/tea brewers
- ★ Ice machines
- ★ Washbasins and service sinks
- ★ Boilers
- ★ Chemical feed equipment

CROSS-CONNECTION & BACKFLOW PREVENTION PROGRAM



ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

1909 CURTIS B ELLIOTT DR., TEMPLE, TX 76501
254.298.5619 | TEMPLETX.GOV/BACKFLOW
BACKFLOWINFO@TEMPLETX.GOV



Water systems depend on pressure to keep water flowing in the proper direction. Water distribution systems are designed so that the pressure is greater in the lines delivering the water than the pressure on the property side of the water meter.

However, there are instances when there is a drop in pressure in the water distribution system or an increase in the pressure of water on the property side of the water meter. When either of these happens, unsanitary water from the customer's plumbing system can get sucked back into the public water system.

If the water in the customer's system has come into contact with harmful substances and it backflows into the municipal drinking water system, it could cause illness or, in extreme cases, death.

FAQS

The City of Temple is working to ensure its drinking water system remains safe. We require backflow prevention assemblies where mandated by law, and we work with customers to eliminate any potential cross-connections in their plumbing that, unprotected by a backflow prevention device, could lead to dangerous situations.

What is backflow?

Backflow is the reversal of water flow from its normal or intended direction of flow. Whenever a water utility connects a customer to its water distribution system, the intention is for the water to flow from the distribution system to the customer.

What causes backflow?

Backflow is usually caused by back-pressure or back-siphonage. Back-pressure is a condition caused when the water pressure within a customer's plumbing system exceeds that of the water distribution system supplying it. Back-pressure can result from an increase in pressure on the customer's side; due to pumps, steam boilers, or other means; or from a decrease in pressure in the city's distribution system due to water line flushing, fire fighting, or water main breaks.

Back-siphonage is a condition caused when there is a loss of water pressure causing a negative pressure (i.e. vacuum) within the distribution system. The effect is similar to drinking water through a straw. This can occur due to nearby firefighting, water main breaks, water line flushing, or other situations that cause a significant loss in water system pressure.

What is a backflow assembly?

A backflow assembly is a device that is placed on potential cross-connections to prevent water from flowing back into the public water system. The most common types of backflow assemblies are a Reduced Pressure Zone Assembly (RPZ), a Pressure Vacuum Breaker (PVB), and a Double Check Valve Assembly (DCVA). All three of these types of backflow prevention assemblies are testable to ensure they are in proper working order.

Who is required to have a backflow prevention assembly?

All commercial and industrial properties are required to have a backflow prevention assembly installed for premises isolation. Protection on internal fixtures may also be required. In addition, all irrigation systems are required to have a backflow prevention assembly installed.

Why do I have to install a backflow prevention assembly?

To protect the customers of public water providers, the Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Act, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, The City of Temple, and the International Plumbing Code each require customers to equip all potential cross-connections with a backflow prevention assembly. As a water supplier, the City of Temple has a responsibility to provide safe drinking water under all foreseeable circumstances to its customers. In addition, customers generally have absolute faith that water delivered to them through a public water system meets all federal and state requirements and is safe to drink.

Does my backflow assembly need to be tested?

Yes. The City of Temple requires that a certified tester check backflow assemblies at the time of installation, annually after installation, after repairs, and after relocating for all devices other than residential irrigation. Backflow assembly testers are private contractors certified by the State of Texas and possess a valid and current certification. Testers must be approved by the City of Temple.

A list of approved testers can be found on the at templetx.gov/backflowtesters

What happens if I do not test a backflow assembly when required?

If for some reason you do not test your backflow assembly, you may be cited and fined for non-compliance. Also, your water service may be terminated to protect the public water system.