

TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF:

- Do not submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, or sinks. Leave at least a two inch space between your hose end and any liquid.
- Do not use spray attachments without backflow prevention device.
- Install a hose bib vacuum breaker on all faucets. They are required, inexpensive, easy to install, & available at most hardware stores.

Does your Vacuum Breaker still work?

Under normal operating conditions, vacuum breakers should work reliably for several years. However, as with all mechanical devices, failures occasionally occur. Failures may occur due to component breakage, corrosion, or build-up of materials.

To test your vacuum breaker:

Attach a nozzle that can be shut off to the end of a hose. With the nozzle shut off, turn on the faucet and allow the hose to pressurize. After a few seconds, the hose pressure should be released in a small spray as the atmospheric vent on the vacuum breaker suddenly opens.

If you notice a leak during normal operation:

If leaks are detected, shut off the water supply, remove and inspect the entire assembly. Replace it if components are defective. Clean it if components are defective. Clean it by flushing water through it while working the spring mechanism to dislodge loose particles. If cleaning it does not restore it to proper operation, then replace it.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Safe drinking water is a resource that we all depend on. The safety of Ridge Utilities, Inc. water system is at risk when backflow prevention devices are not installed or maintained properly. Please inspect your devices annually to ensure they are in proper working condition. An excellent time to have backflow prevention devices inspected and serviced is in the fall when systems are being winterized.

Please be a good neighbor and join Ridge Utilities, Inc., in keeping our drinking water system safe. For more information, please contact our office at (540) 967-1408.



Ridge Utilities, Inc.

Serving the residents of Blue Ridge Shores

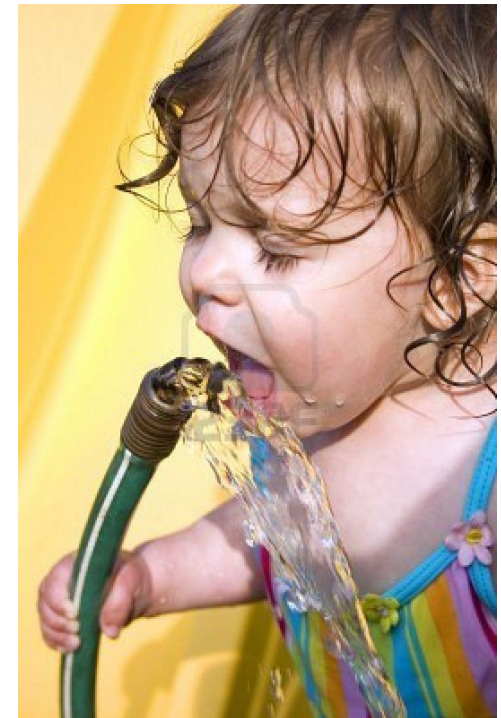
924 South Lakeshore Drive

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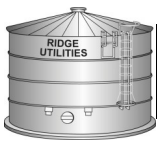
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RIDGE UTILITIES, INC. BACKFLOW PREVENTION PROGRAM Our Water System And How To Protect It



Tel: (540) 967-1408



BACKFLOW PREVENTION PROGRAM

Rules & Regulations

Backflow prevention testing is mandated to comply with federal, state and county ordinances. Ridge Utilities, Inc. is responsible for the potable water supply within Blue Ridge Shores. This includes preparing the water and protecting it against possible contamination. We are mandated by the VDH to have a cross connection/backflow program.

What is a Cross Connection?

A cross connection is a temporary or permanent connection between a potable (drinking) water supply and a non-potable source.

What is a Backflow?

It's just what it sounds like: the water is flowing in the opposite direction from its normal flow. With the direction of flow reversed, due to change in pressure, backflow can allow contaminants to enter our drinking water system through cross-connections.

Types of Backflow:

Backpressure can occur when the potable water supply is connected to another system operated at a higher pressure or has the ability to create pressure, etc. Main causes are booster pumps, pressure vessels, and elevated plumbing.

Back-siphonage is caused by negative pressure in the supply line to a facility or plumbing fixture. A few ways this may occur is during waterline breaks, when waterlines are repaired, and when shutting off waterlines.

The Most Common Form of a Cross Connection

The garden hose is the most common offender as it can be easily connected to the potable water supply and used in a variety of potentially dangerous applications.



What You Can do to Prevent Contamination

- Keep the ends of hoses clear of all possible contaminants.
- Buy and install hose bib type vacuum breakers on all faucets in and around your home, if not already equipped with a built-in vacuum breaker.
- Install an approved backflow prevention assembly on all underground lawn irrigation systems.
- Don't submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, sinks, etc.
- Don't use hose-end attachments that contain chemicals.
- Install a hose bib vacuum breaker on all outdoor faucets. These are inexpensive and can be purchased at any hardware store.

What Are the Five Basic Devices Used for Protection of Cross Connections?

- Air Gap is the simplest and a very effective way to provide backflow prevention. An open space between any device that connects to a plumbing

device that connects to a plumbing system and any place where water can collect or pool.

- Atmospheric Vacuum Breakers—which includes hose connections vacuum breakers.
- Pressure-Type Vacuum Breaker—which includes Backflow Preventer with Intermediate Atmospheric Vent for 1/2" and 3/4" lines.
- Double Check Valve Assembly
- Reduced-Pressure Principle Backflow Preventers

Why Should I be Concerned?

Backflow can cause contaminants to enter our drinking water system. Neither of these type of hazards are wanted in our community drinking water, making backflow prevention necessary. The Virginia Department of Environmental Protection categorizes possible contamination hazards as either high or low:

HIGH HAZARDS: Situations exist when there is an actual or potential connection for any toxic or infectious substance (contaminate) to be introduced into the water supply and may create a danger to health. Examples of contaminants include pesticides, chemicals, infectious microorganisms.

MODERATE HAZARDS: Any contaminate that would degrade the quality of water or impair the usefulness of the water. A health hazard would not exist. A moderate probability exists of a backflow occurrence either by back pressure or by Back-siphonage. Examples would be food items, nontoxic chemicals, nonhazardous chemicals.

LOW HAZARDS: Situations exist when there is an actual or potential connection for a nontoxic substance (pollutant) to be introduced to the water supply and create a nuisance or be aesthetically objective to the water user. Examples of pollutants are turbidity, beverages, and food coloring.