

The City of Jacksonville is committed to providing quality, cost effective service in the production, treatment, testing, and delivery of safe drinking water to all residential, commercial, and industrial users. Please help us in doing so by installing backflow preventers and having them tested annually if necessary.



Leaving your hose end in a “pool” of water without the proper backflow preventer could cause the water in the “pool” to backflow into your home system or even into the main water supply.



Hose Sprayer—must have a vacuum breaker or an anti-siphon spigot when using this. Otherwise, you run the risk of the chemicals getting into your home, causing a cross connection.



Permanent lawn irrigation systems— a Reduced Pressure backflow device is required to prevent any cross connection between your system and potable water. This device should be tested annually.



Older style spigot— requires a hose bibb vacuum breaker to prevent any cross connection.



Hose bibb vacuum breaker—This device installs directly on an older style spigot to prevent cross connection. These can be purchased at your local hardware store and do NOT need to be tested.



Anti-siphon spigot that does not require a hose bibb vacuum breaker.



Air gap—the area between the top of the filled container and the bottom of the faucet.



Reduced Pressure backflow device— These are required for permanent irrigation systems and on any boiler heating systems. These devices should be tested annually.

Cross Connection—the actual or potential point in a plumbing system where the potable (drinkable) water supply is or can be connected to a non-potable (non-drinkable) source.

Backpressure backflow—occurs when the non-potable water system pressure is higher than the potable water system. Example is a boiler heating system.

Back-siphonage—occurs when there is pressure loss in the water system causing water to flow in reverse from its normal flow. Example is under certain circumstances during a water main break.



A Reduced Pressure backflow device is installed on this boiler system. This device will prevent any of the water in the boiler to enter the potable system of your home or even the community.



Radiant floor heat—if the system is connected to your home water source, you would need to install a Double Check Valve Assembly or a Reduced Pressure backflow device.



If your property has a well/pond, for an additional water supply, the two systems should NOT be tied together at all.



A mop/cleaning sink is present in many homes and businesses. If a hose bibb vacuum breaker is not installed on the faucet, the mucky water in the sink could end up in your potable water system.



Yard hydrant—these should have at least a vacuum breaker if not Reduced Pressure backflow device to prevent backflow.

The City of Jacksonville needs your help in protecting our water supply. You can help us by:

- Keeping the ends of your hoses clear of all possible contaminants and,
- If not already equipped with in-line protection device, buy and install approved hose bibb vacuum breakers on all threaded faucets. (These devices do NOT require testing.)
- Have all backflow prevention assemblies tested every year.

DO NOT:

- Submerge hoses in buckets, vats, tubs, sinks, or ponds.
- Use spray attachments or valved spray hoses without a backflow preventer.
- Directly connect waste drain pipes from water softeners or other treatment systems to the sewer system. All drains should be air gapped.



Double Check Valve Assembly—Two independently operating check valves with shut off valves at each end of the assembly and properly located test cocks. These are required on some fire protection systems. These devices should be tested annually.



Fire Protection Systems are required to have a backflow preventer on them. Depending on the type of system, you might need to install a Reduced Pressure backflow device or a Double Check Valve Assembly.

The City of Jacksonville Water Department is committed to providing safe drinking water. As a water customer, you can help ensure our water system stays safe by installing backflow preventers in your home or business. Failure to protect your home or business plumbing from contaminants can result in unsafe water in your own water supply.