

NOTICE OF CITY OF BRUNSWICK CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL AND BACKFLOW PREVENTION PROGRAM

Providing water of exceptional quality is the core of The City of Brunswick's Public Water System. Therefore, it is essential to safeguard the water after it leaves the water treatment plants. In order to fulfill this mission, The City of Brunswick maintains a Cross- Connection and Backflow Prevention Program. The goal of the program is to prevent the backflow of contaminants or pollutants into the City of Brunswick potable water system. As part of this program, the City of Brunswick will be reaching out to properties served by The City Water System where cross-connections to the public water supply is deemed possible. A survey or inspection request will be sent to such properties.

WHAT IS A CROSS-CONNECTION?

A cross-connection is a link between potable water pipes to unsafe, unknown pipes and/or liquid. For example, a garden hose attached to a hose bib with the outlet end submerged in a pond or swimming pool. If The City's water supply pressure drops, the water from the pond or the pool can be suctioned into the drinking water.

WHAT IS BACKFLOW?

Backflow is the undesirable reversal of the normal flow of water or other liquids, mixtures or substances into the drinking water supply.

This occurs in two ways:

- 1) BACKSIPHONAGE: When a drop in The City of Brunswick's water supply pressure creates a suction effect drawing water out of a building, house or other private plumbing system back into The City of Brunswick potable water system. Real examples that could lead to a decreased supply pressure include opening or closing a valve, flushing a hydrant or a water main break.
- 2) BACKPRESSURE: When a building, house, or other private plumbing system with greater pressure than The City of Brunswick's water supply pressure pushes water from the building, house or private plumbing system back into The City of Brunswick's potable water system. This can occur in a pressurized system with booster pumps, chemical feed pumps, boilers, elevated storage tanks, or recirculating systems.

HOW IS BACKFLOW PREVENTED?

Preventing backflow is a matter of avoiding the reverse flow of unwanted substances into the drinking water by using special plumbing devices and practices. Preventing backflow is accomplished by requiring physical plumbing methods (air-gaps) or requiring installation of mechanical back flow preventers designed specifically to prevent backflow within customer premises.

The City of Brunswick operates its Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention Program in accordance with the MD Department of Environment (MDE) and City Ordinance Number 559.

The operation of the program includes:

Determining which sites require installation of a backflow preventer based on hazard identification.

Surveying premises to determine the presence of actual or potential hazards.

Maintaining records of all customer backflow preventers.

Administering and enforcing backflow testing and inspection requirements.

Providing public information programs for education about cross connection control and backflow prevention.

