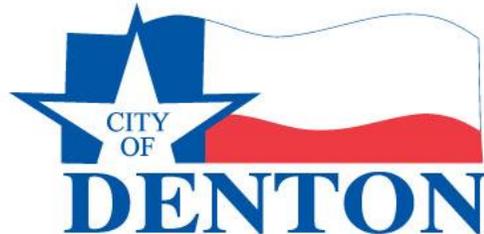


Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection Control Program

Program Update and Ordinance Revision

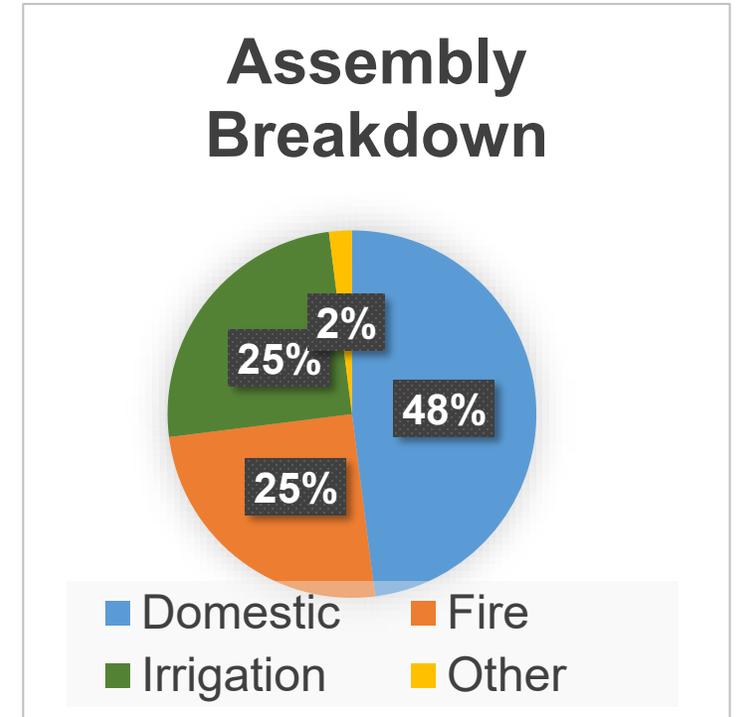
Stephen Gay
Water Utilities and Streets Operations
February 17, 2026



PUB26-001

Denton's Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection Control Program

- Established in 1997
- Reorganized and staffed in 2023
- Monitors and maintains 6,262 commercial assemblies (~600 new assemblies added each year)
- Annual compliance improved from 52% to 88% of assemblies tested
- Annual on-site testing required by certified testers
- Provide comprehensive customer education during non-compliance site visits

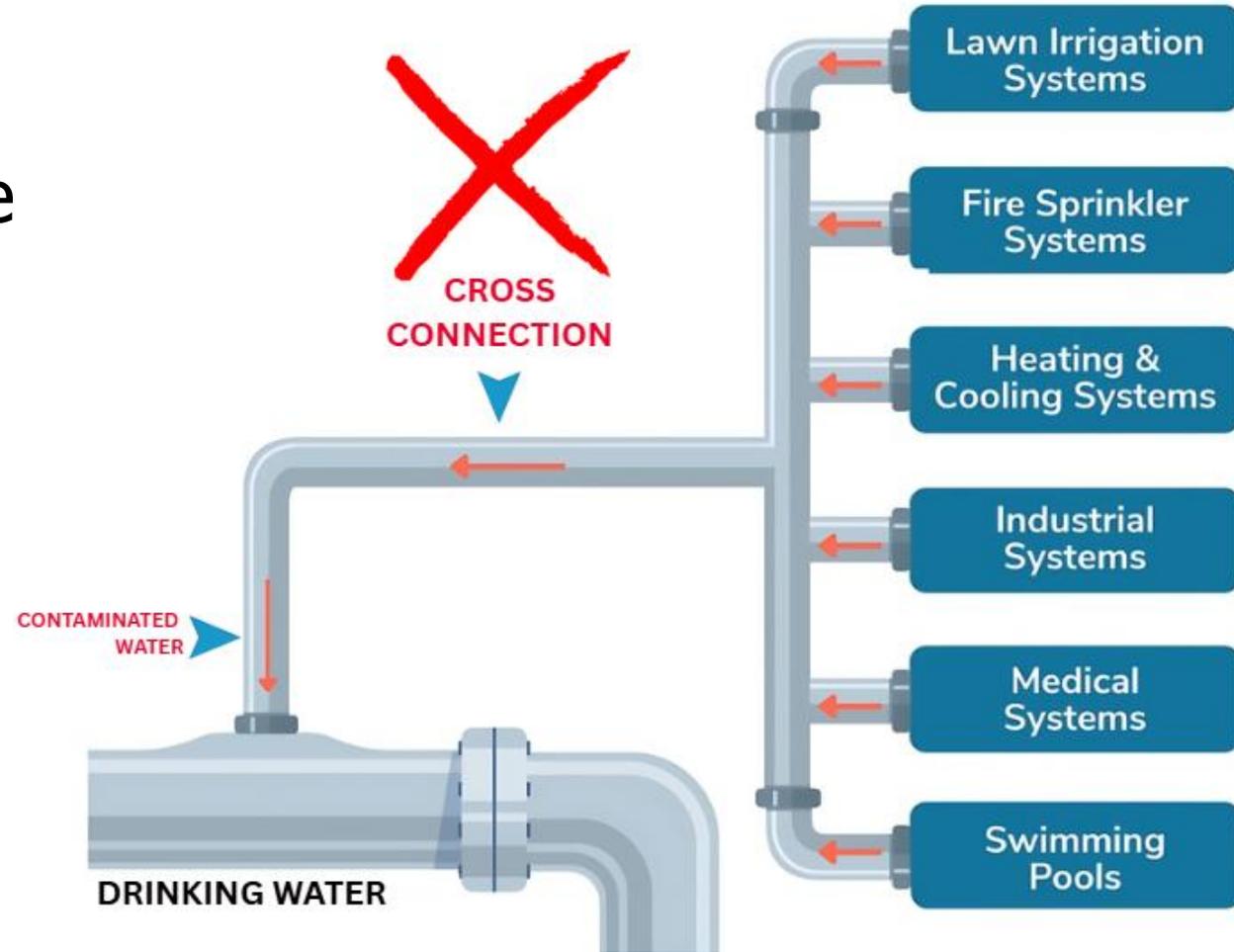


What is Backflow?

When water flows in the opposite direction from normal flow.

What is a Cross-Connection?

A direct or indirect connection between a drinking water system and a potentially contaminated water source.



Example of Why it is Essential (2024)

© CBS NEWS

GRAND PRAIRIE – Grand Prairie ISD announced schools will be closed Thursday after the city found a "foaming agent" in the water supply Tuesday evening.

He said the foaming agent got into the water system through a **backflow event**.

The city said to not consume the water in any way, including:

- Drinking, cooking, brushing teeth, making beverages or ice
- Pets or animals to drink
- Dishwashing



Bottled Water Line

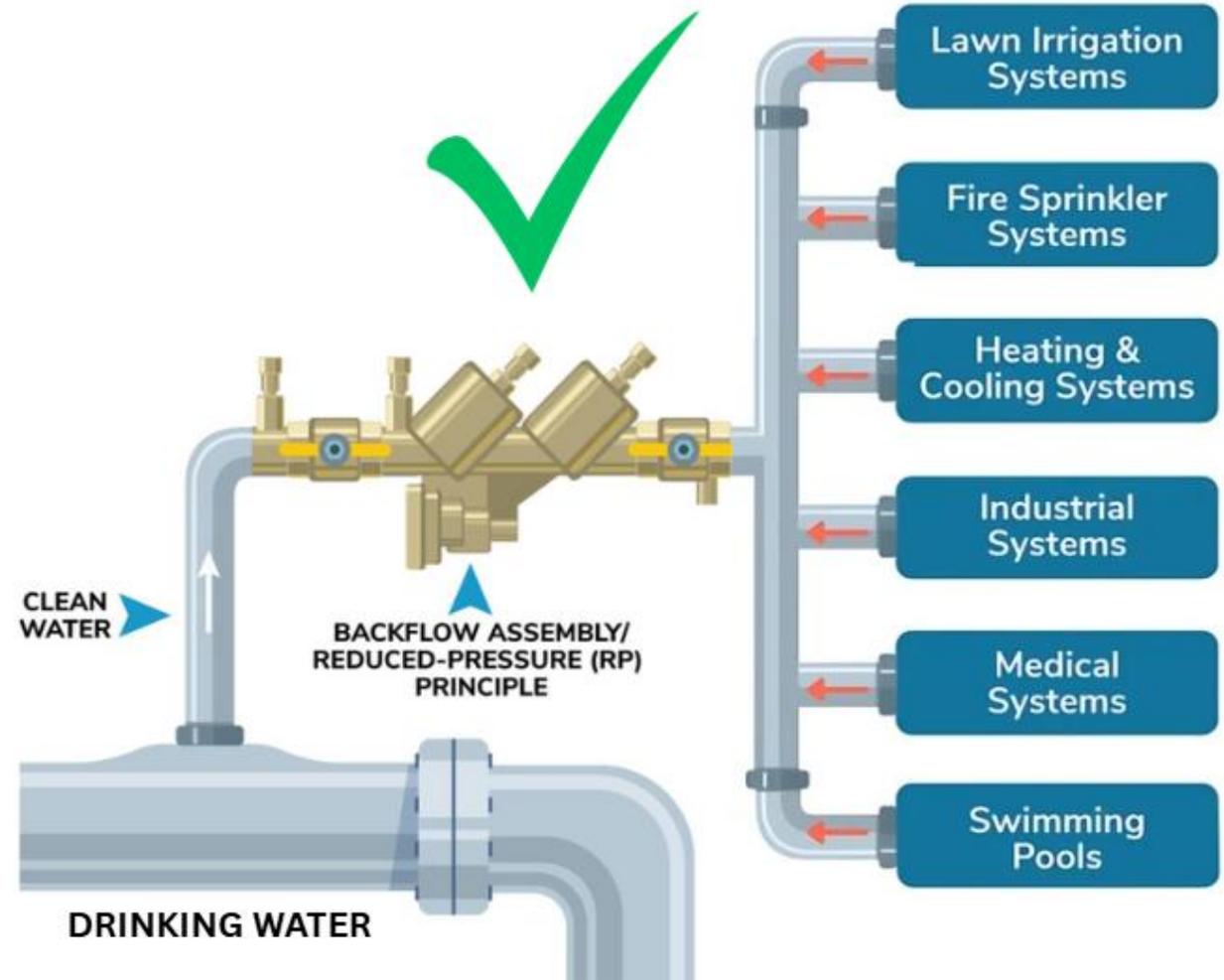
Protection Tools

Backflow Prevention Assembly:

A Device that only allows water to flow in one direction.

Cross Connection Control:

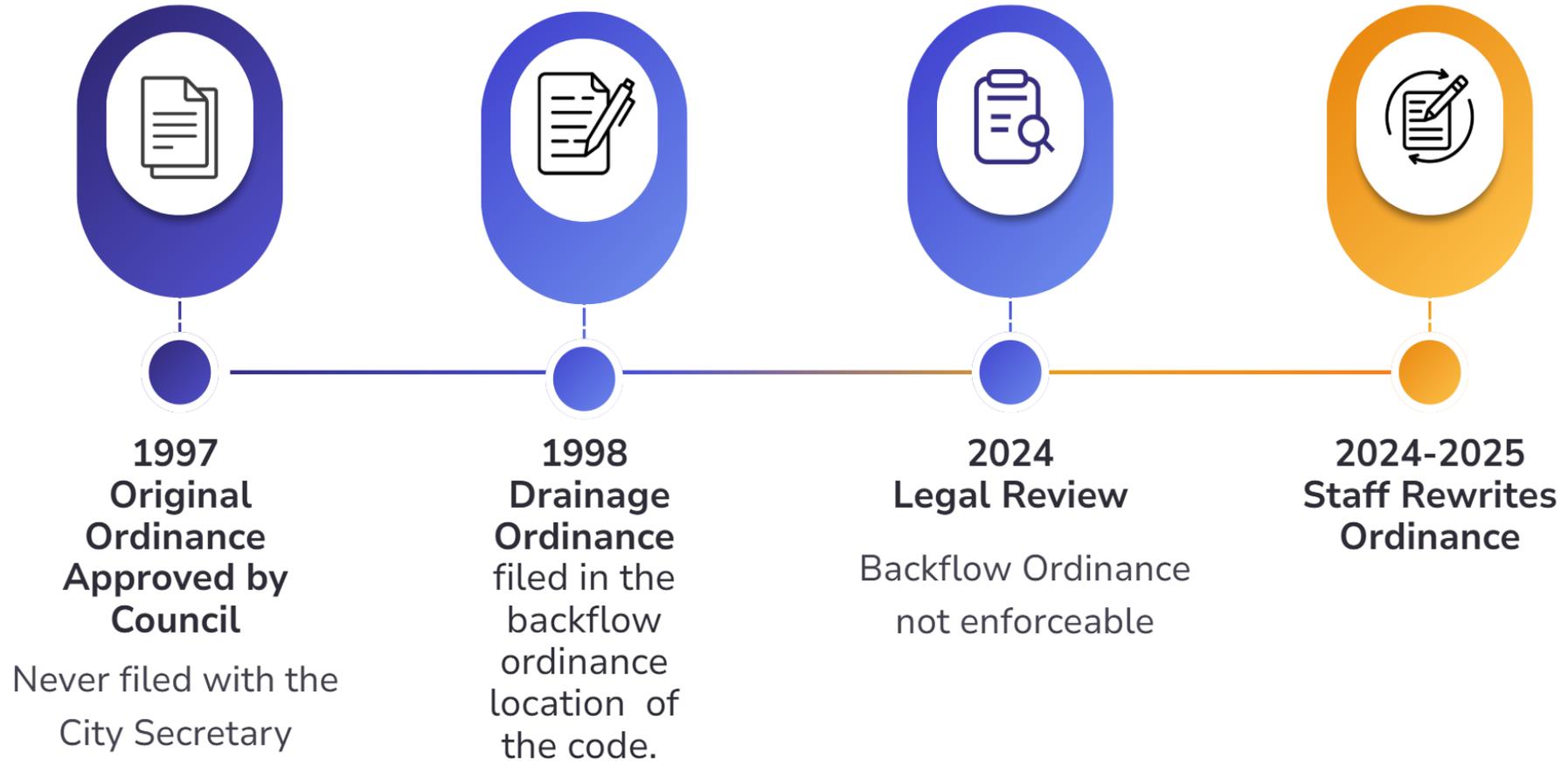
Ensuring there are no unprotected plumbing connections between contaminated water and drinking water.



Need for Update

- Implemented: 1997
- Best practices and threats have evolved
- Staff fully reviewed the existing program and identified areas for improvement
- Current Ordinance Unenforceable

Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection Control Ordinance Timeline



Proposed Ordinance Provides Legal Authority

- Protects drinking water for all customers from contamination
- Maintains Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) compliance
- Follows industry best practices
- Provides clear enforcement authority and fees
- Consolidation of Backflow Ordinance Requirements
 - 2008 Irrigation Ordinance backflow requirement repealed

Update Highlights: Backflow Prevention & Installation

- Backflow Prevention Assembly (BPA) required just past the meter for containment
- All new non-residential construction must install a Backflow Prevention Assembly
- Fire systems: BPA installed past the meter, not in the riser room
- Irrigation: Atmospheric Vacuum Breakers are no longer allowed

Update Highlights: Standards, Compliance & Enforcement

- Clear installation standards and updated tester insurance/training
- Hydrant meter requirements defined
- Expanded staff inspection access
- Emergency shut-off procedures defined
- Service suspension clarified for non-compliance

Irrigation Ordinance Updates

Ordinance No. 2008-302

- Backflow components repealed
 - 28-441 – Definitions (*relating to backflow prevention*)
 - 28-444 – Backflow Prevention Methods and Devices (*entire*)
 - 28-445 – Specific Conditions and Cross-Connection Control (*entire*)
 - 28-452 – Reclaimed Water (*relating to backflow prevention*)

Irrigation Ordinance Updates

Building Safety updates:

- Removed definition of “installer” since TCEQ removed this license type.
- Updated definitions for consistency with TCEQ definitions.
- Updated language to match TCEQ requirements.
- Removed backflow methods and specifications: to be located in the Backflow Ordinance.
- Updated requirements of plans, since plans are now electronically submitted.
- Provides more clarity for installation of irrigation systems, inspections, and maintenance per TCEQ updates.

Next Steps

- City Council Work Session (02/17)
- City Council Individual Consideration (03/03)
- Publish Notice in Denton Record Chronicle (3/3-3/13)
- Effective Date (3/17)

QUESTIONS?