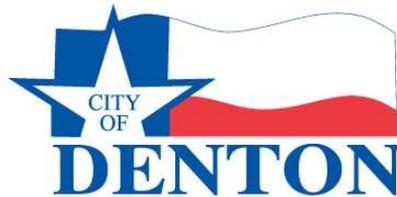


Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection Control Program

Program Update and Ordinance Revision

Stephen Gay
Water Utilities and Streets Operations
February 3, 2026

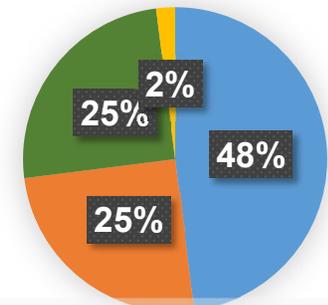


ID25-1724

Denton's Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection Control Program

- Established in 1997
- Monitors and maintains 6,262 commercial assemblies
 - ~600 new assemblies added each year
- Annual on-site testing required by certified testers
- Staff provides comprehensive customer education during non-compliance site visits

Assembly Breakdown



■ Domestic ■ Fire
■ Irrigation ■ Other

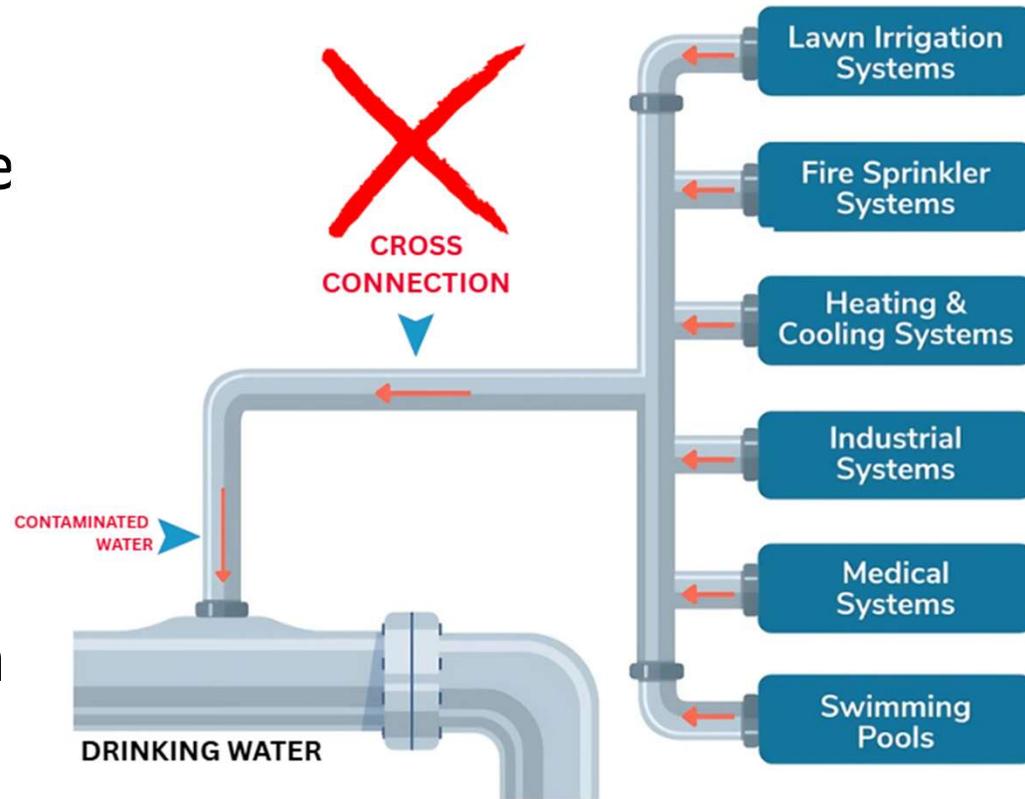


What is Backflow?

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

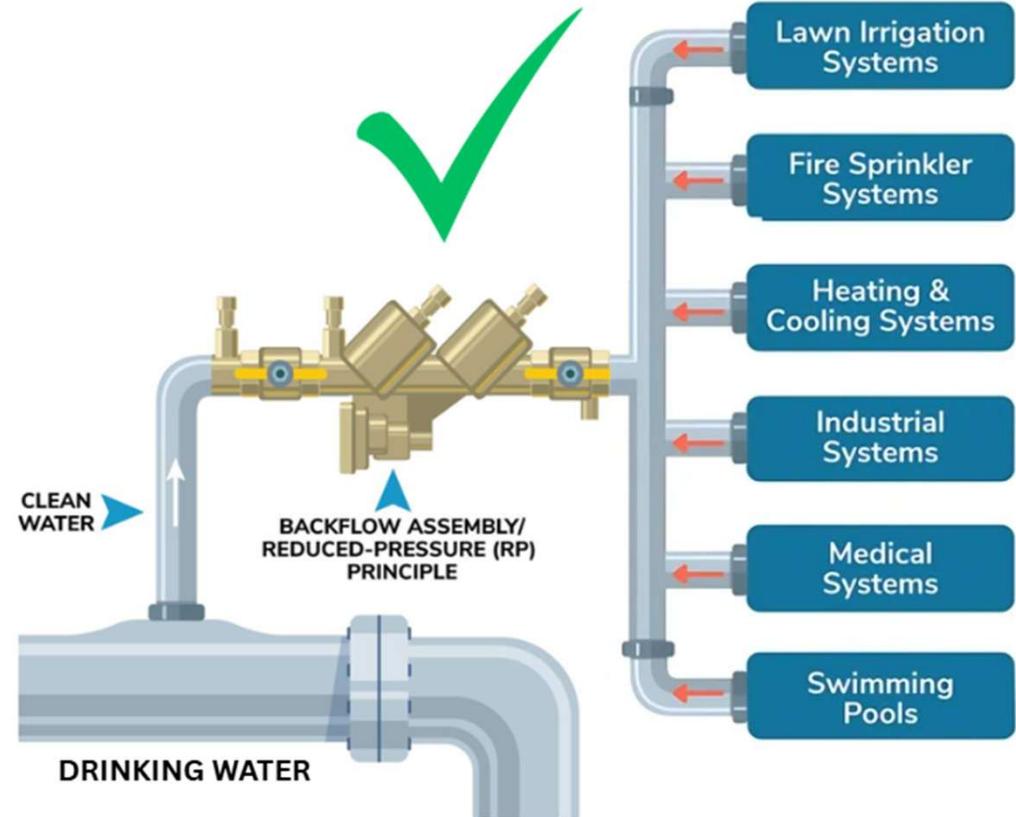
Protection Tools

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 presents enforcement challenges

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

Update Highlights: Criteria for Future Devices

- **Domestic systems:** Backflow Prevention Assembly (BPA) required just past the meter for containment
- **Fire systems:** BPA required just past the meter, not in the riser room
- **Irrigation systems:** BPA required just past the meter



Update Highlights: Standards, Compliance & Enforcement

- Clear installation standards and updated tester insurance/training
- Irrigation: Atmospheric Vacuum Breakers are no longer allowed
- Hydrant meter requirements defined
- Expanded staff inspection access
- Emergency shut-off procedures defined
- Service suspension clarified for non-compliance

Next Steps

- City Council Work Session (02/03)
- Communicate proposed changes to the public (2/3-3/3)
- City Council Individual Consideration (03/03)
- Publish Notice in Denton Record Chronicle (3/3-3/13)
- Effective Date (3/17)

QUESTIONS?



ID25-1724
February 3, 2026