

**1. Why does the Town of Tappahannock have a Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control Program?** First and foremost, because we want to ensure that our water distribution system remains safe from harmful substances. It is also required by the Virginia Department of Health's (VDH) Waterworks Regulations. We, as your water system operator, are required to have this program as a condition for the issuance of our water system operator's license

**2. What is a cross-connection?** A cross-connection is any temporary or permanent connection between a public water system or consumer's potable (i.e., drinking) water system and any source or system containing nonpotable water or other substances. An example is the piping between a public water system or consumer's potable water system and an auxiliary water system, cooling system, well, or irrigation system.

**3. What is backflow?** Backflow is the undesirable reversal of flow of nonpotable water or other substances through a cross-connection and into the piping of a public water system or consumer's potable water system. There are two types of backflow; backpressure and backsiphonage.

**4. What is backpressure?** Backpressure is backflow caused by a downstream pressure that is greater than the upstream or supply pressure in a public water system or consumer's potable water system. Backpressure (i.e., downstream pressure that is greater than the potable water supply pressure) can result from an increase in downstream pressure, a reduction in the potable water supply pressure, or a combination of both. Increases in downstream pressure can be created by pumps, temperature increases in boilers, etc. Reductions in potable water supply pressure occur whenever the amount of water being used exceeds the amount of water being supplied, such as during water line flushing, fire fighting, or breaks in water mains.

**5. What is backsiphonage?** Backsiphonage is backflow caused by a negative pressure (i.e., a vacuum or partial vacuum) in a public water system or consumer's potable water system. The effect is similar to drinking water through a straw. Backsiphonage can occur when there is a stoppage of water supply due to nearby fire fighting, a break in a water main, routine maintenance flushing, or any other situation that causes a significant loss in water system pressure.

**6. Why do water system operators need to control backflow?** Backflow into a public water system can pollute or contaminate the water in that system, and each water supplier has a responsibility to provide water that is safe to drink under all foreseeable circumstances. Furthermore, consumers generally have absolute faith that water delivered to them through a public water system is always safe to drink. For these reasons, each water supplier must take reasonable precautions to protect its public water system against backflow.

**Cross Connection Control Program: Water Consumer Questionnaire.**

Every three years, the Town of Tappahannock is required by the Virginia Dept. of Health to ensure that certain types of connections to the water system do not have the capability to send water backward into the central water supply. This is called “back flow” or “cross connecting” and preventing this is critical to maintaining a secure water system. You are being sent this questionnaire to determine if this situation could occur at your location(s). We are required by the Virginia Department of Health to have your response on file.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner if not current resident

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Please check  any item that may apply to your premises:

Outside Spigot without Vacuum Breaker

Frost-proof Spigot without Vacuum Breaker

Yard Hydrant, Yard Spigot, Standpipe

Shampoo Bowl/Sink

Private Well, Spring or Cistern

Darkroom / Photo Development

Mop Sink, Laundry Sink, Utility Sink with

Hose Bibb Threads

Baptismal Pool

Dye Vat

Carbonated Drink Machine

Swimming Pool

Jacuzzi / Hot Tub

Solar Heating System

Steam or Hot Water Heating System

Lawn Irrigation Sprinkler System

Fire Protection Sprinkler System

Hose End Sprayer for Fertilizer or Other

Chemicals

Pressure Booster Pump

Water Storage Tank

Dialysis Equipment

Please offer a brief description of any other items or treatment units connected to the water system on your property:

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Please list any existing cross connection control devices you have installed and if they appear to be working properly:

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Any Additional comments:

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*Cross Connection Program Questionnaire*