

How Backflow Can Happen



Water normally flows from the public system into a home. If pressure changes occur, water can flow backward through an unprotected connection and contaminate the drinking water supply.

Two common causes

- Backsiphonage: lower pressure draws water backward.
- Backpressure: higher pressure in connected equipment pushes water backward.

A cross-connection links drinking water to a non-drinking water source or another substance. Backflow protection creates a barrier between drinking water and a potential source of contamination.

Learn More

Questions about backflow or a potential cross-connection at your home? Contact G&G Environmental Compliance, Inc., the Ventura County Public Works Agency's cross-connection control program consultant.

G&G Environmental Compliance, Inc.

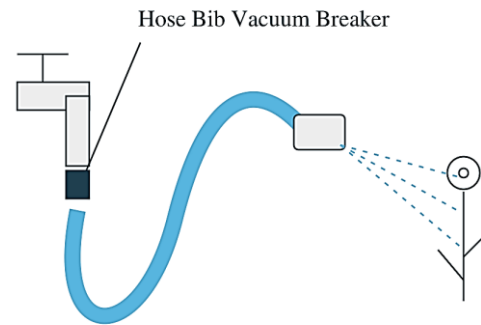
(951) 683-3538 • WSBackflow@ggcorp.net

Para leer esta información en español, escanea el código:

What is Backflow?

Backflow is the reverse flow of water through a connection, which can occur with pressure changes in a water system.

Simple Ways to Reduce Risk



- Keep the end of a garden hose above the water when filling a pool, bucket, or other container.
- Do not submerge a hose in a sink, tank, or chemical mixture.
- Install hose bib vacuum breakers on all hose bibs.
- Use appropriate backflow protection for irrigation and other connected equipment.

Why this matters

A pressure change can pull water from a connected hose or system toward drinking water. An air gap or suitable protective device helps stop that reverse flow.

Backflow prevention helps protect your household, your neighbors, and the community's drinking water supply.

PUBLIC
WORKS



VENTURA COUNTY WATERWORKS
DISTRICT NOS. 1, 17, 19, AND 38

FALL 2026 ISSUE



HELP PROTECT OUR DRINKING WATER

Residential Backflow and Cross-Connections Guide

A guide to how backflow can happen at home and how to help protect drinking water.

Preventing Backflow. Protecting Your Home, Family, and Water Supply.

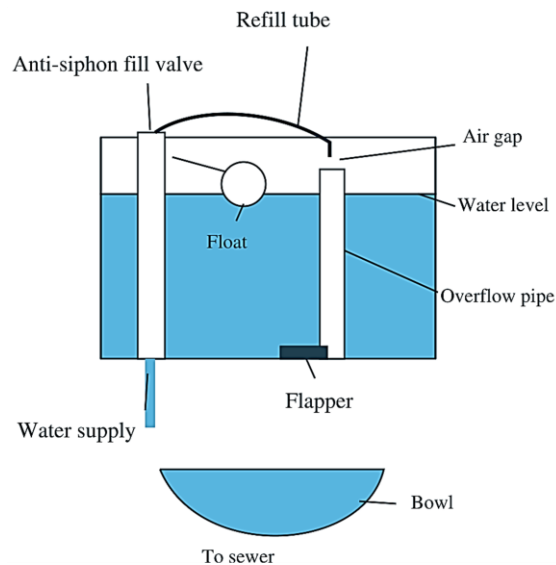
Toilets and Backflow

Water enters a toilet tank through the supply line and fill valve. The tank stores the water used to flush waste into the sewer.

An anti-siphon fill valve helps prevent tank water from being drawn back into your home's drinking water when supply pressure drops.

The fill valve must be the correct type and installed at the proper height. Keep the refill tube above the overflow pipe opening so it cannot become submerged or siphon tank water back into the home's plumbing system.

If you are unsure about your toilet's setup, ask a qualified plumber to check it.

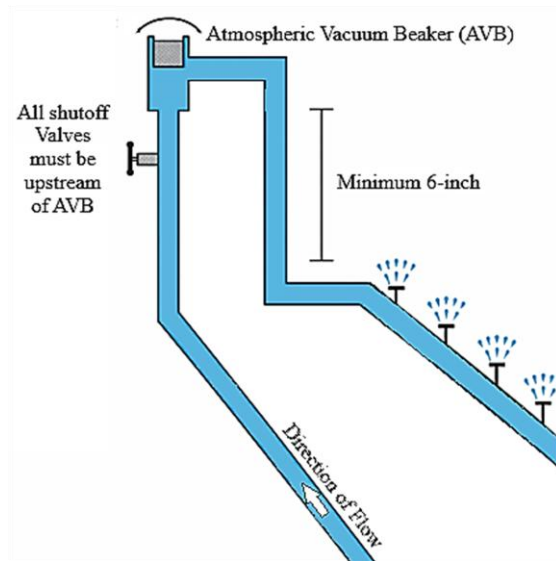


Common Connections

A hose or pipe can create a cross connection when it links drinking water to another water source or substance. Common examples include:

- Garden hoses used with fertilizer or pesticide sprayers.
- Irrigation and sprinkler systems.
- Pools, spas, fountains, and ponds.
- Private wells or auxiliary water supplies.
- Boilers and other connected equipment.

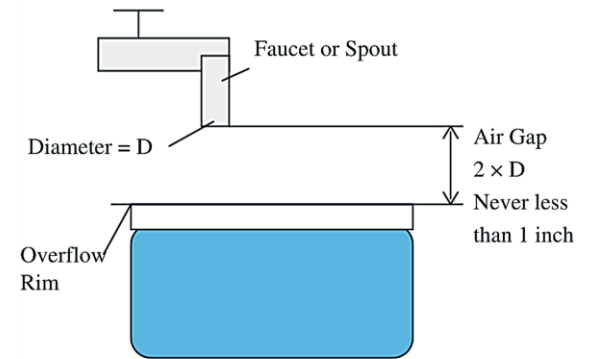
An atmospheric vacuum breaker is one example of backflow protection used in irrigation systems. It helps prevent backsiphonage. Install it above the outlets it protects, with shutoff valves upstream, following the manufacturer's instructions.



Having one of these connections does not necessarily mean your home is out of compliance. The protection needed depends on the water use, how the connection is installed, and any backflow protection already in place.

Protecting Drinking Water

Keep an air gap



When filling a container, keep the hose outlet above the container's overflow rim, maintaining an appropriate air gap.

Use the right device

Some connections need a backflow prevention device. The appropriate type depends on the connection. The USC Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research has established standards for the type of protection required.

Maintain protection

Do not remove or bypass a protective device. Have devices that need testing or service checked by a qualified professional as directed by the Ventura County Water and Sanitation Department.

For questions, contact G&G Environmental Compliance at WSBackflow@ggcorp.net.