

The City of Red Deer is committed to providing safe drinking water. A vital link in this effort is the Cross Connection and Backflow Prevention Program.

Water distribution systems are designed so that water flows in one direction from the treatment plant/pump stations to the customer. Water systems depend on pressure to keep water flowing in the proper direction. For these systems to perform properly the pressure must be greater in the lines delivering the water than the pressure on the property side of the water meter. However, when there is a drop in water pressure on the city's side due to leaks or pipe breaks, a reverse flow can occur. If the water in the customer's system has come in contact with harmful substances and it backflows into the municipal drinking water system, it could cause illness or in extreme cases, death.

To protect our drinking water, the City of Red Deer requires backflow preventers where they are mandated by By-Law #3464/2011. We also work with customers to eliminate potential cross-connections in our customer's plumbing that, if left unprotected by a backflow preventer, could lead to dangerous situations.



**Thank you for helping us
protect our drinking water
and our environment.**

**For more information,
please contact:**

The City of Red Deer
Environmental Services
Box 5008, Red Deer, AB T4N 3T4
403-342-8750
environmentalservices@reddeer.ca

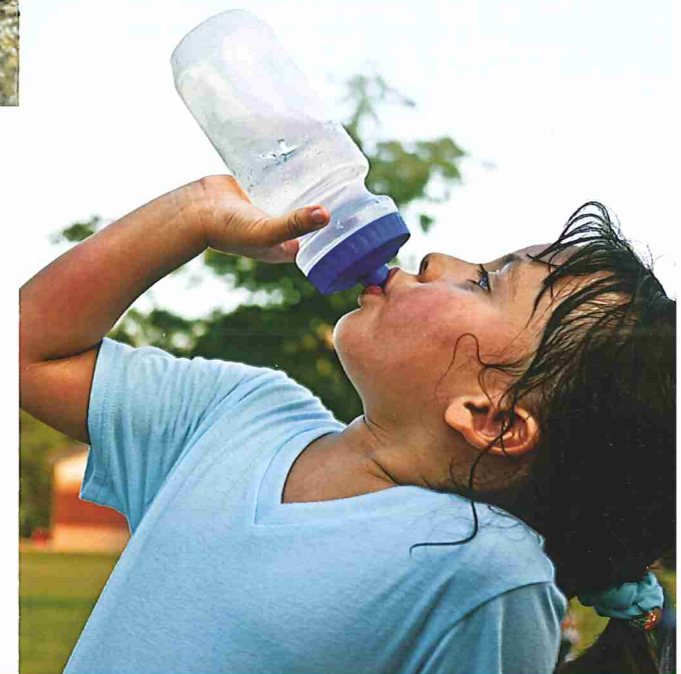


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Cross Connection & Backflow Prevention Program

One way flow to protecting
our drinking water



Here are some answers to commonly asked questions about Environmental Services Cross-Connection and Backflow Prevention Program.

What is a cross connection?

A cross connection is any permanent or temporary connection between the drinking water supply and any other non-drinking water or substance. For example, a fire sprinkler system, a water feed line to a cooling tower or a household garden hose connected to a chemical sprayer.

What is a backflow?

Backflow is a reversal of flow of non potable water through an unprotected cross connection into the public drinking water system.

What is a backflow preventer?

A backflow preventer is a mechanical device that prevents backflow of water into the drinking water system.

Are there any regulations related to Cross Connection Control?

The City of Red Deer's Cross Connection and Backflow Prevention Program enforces the City's Bylaw #3464/2011 to prevent the contamination of the drinking water supply. A copy of the Bylaw can be obtained at www.reddeer.ca or at City Hall.

Who can test backflow preventers?

Any individual who is registered with the WCWWA (AWWA) and the City as a Cross Connection Certified tester.

Why do backflow preventers need to be tested yearly?

Backflow preventers are mechanical devices that have internal seals, springs and moving parts which are subject to being plugged by grit, fouling and wear. These devices require annual inspection, maintenance, and testing. Backflow preventers can only be tested by a certified cross connection tester.

I have received a letter stating that my backflow preventer(s) are due for testing. What am I required to do?

You are required to contract a certified tester (plumber) to test the backflow preventer located at the address(es) stated in the letter.

Who is responsible for testing a backflow preventer?

It is the owner of the property or the agent of the owner (property manager) where the backflow preventer is located.

What are the consequences for failing to comply with the testing?

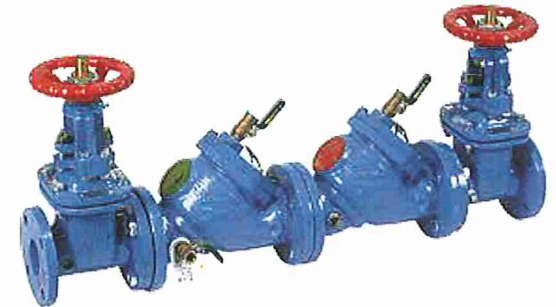
Failure to comply may result in a discontinuation of water service for the property.

Where can I find more reference material?

Western Canada Water (WCWWA) has information on its website and a link to the AWWA Canadian Cross Connection Control Manual.

Who do I contact for more information?

Depending on the nature of the business, most commercial premises will have a least one backflow preventer installed on their plumbing system.



If you are unsure you require a cross connection device or would like more information, please call Environmental Services at 403-342-8750 or email crossconnections@reddeer.ca.