



# **Cross- Connection & Backflow Prevention Program**

*An initiative that follows Virginia  
Department of Health Guidelines*

## **Background & Definitions**

New Market's water distribution system consists of a network of main pipes that customers "tap" or connect to in order to receive clean, potable water. Lateral lines, especially after the water meter, however are the responsibility of customers rather than Town Public Works Staff.

Incidences can occur where the flow of water reverses, potentially introducing containments into the Town water system. A **cross-connection** and **backflow** must exist for this to occur.

**Cross-connection:** A connection between a potable water supply and an unapproved source (waste pipe, sewer, etc.) or a potable water supply pipe that can be submerged (i.e. hose in pool).

**Backflow:** Contaminants, untreated water, etc. which flows into the water supply system.

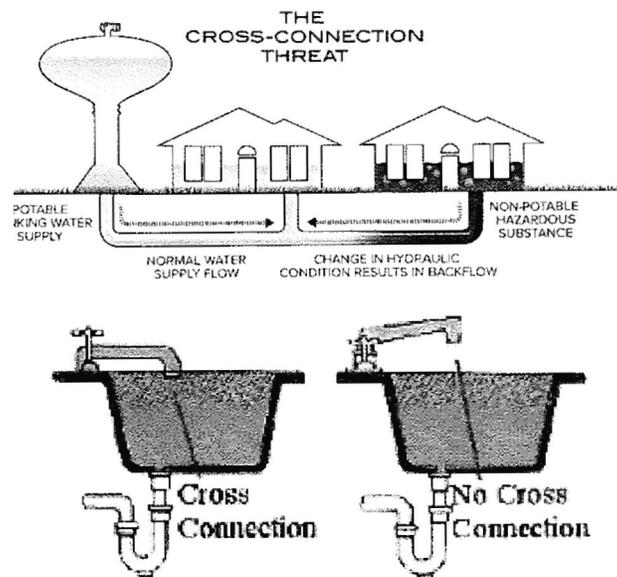
New Market water customers ranging from residential to industrial consumers are required to use appropriate **backflow prevention devices**.

**Backflow prevention device:** Prevents containments from being drawn into the water supply system. **Testable** and **non-testable** forms exist.

## Backflows can seriously happen!

Imagine a homeowner filling their dirty swimming pool with a hose not connected to an anti-siphon faucet. A water main break occurs nearby, causing a vacuum. Greater pressure within a service lateral than a water main can create a backflow through a cross-connection!

Utility or laundry sinks with faucets that can be submerged by water represent another common cross-connection.



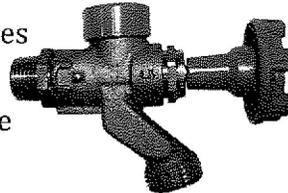
## What is required of me?

Non-testable backflow prevention devices should exist on all hose faucets. Testable backflow prevention devices must be inspected annually.

## Non-testable preventers

### Anti-Siphon Freezeless Wall Faucet:

- Common on homes built after 1992
- Excellent upgrade for older homes



### Hose Bibb Vacuum Breaker (HVB)

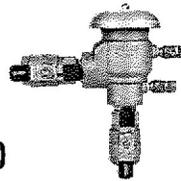
- Attach between hose and faucet
- Available for less than \$10



## Testable Preventers

### Pressure Vacuum Breaker (PVB)

- Irrigation/sprinkler system



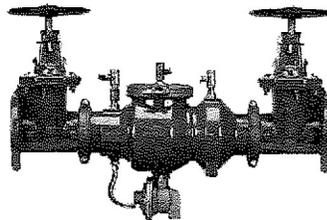
### Double Check Valve (DCV)

- Fire sprinkler system
- Multifamily structures



### Reduced Pressure Backflow Preventer

- Commercial structures



## **Potential cross connection areas**

### **Residential**

- Basements
- Hose connections
- Sprinkler systems
- Pools & spas

### **Recreation Areas**

- Parks & playgrounds
- Golf courses
- Swimming pools

### **Commercial and Industrial**

- Fire systems
- Heating and cooling systems
- Water-cooled equipment

## **Relevant Town Codes**

Sec. 62-351 through Sec. 62-357 of the Code of New Market pertains to cross connection control and backflow prevention.

Key points include:

- State plumbing codes apply
- Town reps. may conduct inspections
- Violations can lead to water disconnection

## **Tips for avoiding a backflow incident**

1. Make sure an air gap exists between faucet endpoints and the flood level of the sink, bath tub, or other device they supply.
2. Install proper backflow prevention devices on all faucets which a hose can be connected to.
3. Make sure an adequate air gap exists between drain lines of refrigerators, water softeners, hvac equipment, etc and the floor drain or sewer line which they drain into.

### **Contact:**

Weekdays between 7:30 am & 4:00 pm

*(540) 740-3432* (New Market Town Hall)

### **New Market Town Office**

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