Incentive Program

At Skagit PUD, we understand that installing a backflow prevention assembly can be an unforeseen project expense. To help with costs, Skagit PUD now offers a ***Cross-Connection Control Incentive Program*** that provides eligible customers with financial assistance when backflow prevention assemblies are installed voluntarily at an existing water service.

How to Apply

The incentive program's application process is as simple as making a phone call. Skagit PUD considers applications on a first-come, first-served basis. A lump-sum reimbursement is provided upon successful installation, testing, and submittal of required cost documentation.

Existing customers that require cross-connection control for premises isolation—Double Check Valve Assembly (DCVA) or Reduced Pressure Backflow Assembly (RPBA)—are eligible for the program unless the following apply:

- Customer is applying for or currently approved for the agricultural water rate.
- Customer is requesting to upsize an existing water service.
- Customer has premises requiring new backflow protection for more than the initial 90-day installation period.

Customers must supply a conceptual design or sketch of the proposed backflow preventer installation with the application.

To apply, contact:

Courtney Shilling
Cross-Connection Control Coordinator
(360) 848-2138 | shilling@skagitpud.org

For more information, please contact:

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Skagit PUD
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
1415 Freeway Drive
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL

Incentive Program

Working Together to Keep Our Drinking Water Safe

www.SkagitPUD.org

Keeping your water safe is our business.

Skagit Public Utility District makes safe drinking water its highest priority. Our tap water delivers public health protection, fire protection, support for the economy, and overall quality of life. However, we need your help to continue to be successful. Although the water that reaches your home is of the highest quality and is safe, contamination can occur within your piping system.

Delivering safe, reliable drinking water to customers begins with protecting our water supply sources and continues until the water reaches your meter. The prevention of backflow, an unwanted flow of water in the reverse direction into the public water supply, is an integral part of ensuring safe drinking water.

Backflow prevention is one key element in keeping your water safe and drinkable. Due to state and federal regulations, water providers must track all backflow assemblies installed in their water distribution systems and ensure that all backflow assemblies are tested and maintained annually.

What is Backflow?

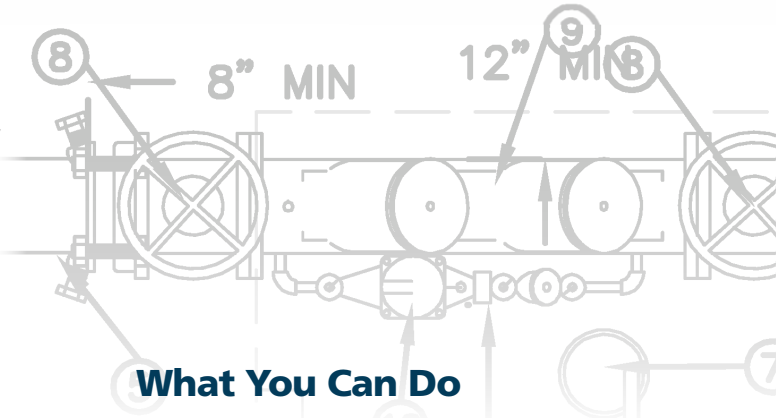
Anytime your drinking water supply has an opportunity to come in contact with a harmful substance, a **cross-connection** exists. For example, attaching a fertilizer sprayer to a garden hose or even placing your hose in a soap bucket for car washing creates a cross-connection and possible health hazards.

Cross-connections can lead to contamination when an unforeseen change in pressure allows the water to flow backwards within the water supply piping. This reversal of flow, called **backflow**, can allow contaminated water to flow backward, drawing a contaminant into the water supply.

Under normal circumstances Skagit PUD's water supply is pressurized to keep water flowing to your tap, however, unforeseen circumstances (such as a water main break or the need to fight a fire) can suddenly change the pressure in the supply piping, allowing the water to siphon back from a contaminated source to a drinking water supply.

What are Backflow Preventers?

Backflow prevention assemblies are mechanical devices installed on water service lines (or at plumbing fixtures) to prevent backflow of contaminants into drinking water through cross-connections. For a backflow preventer to provide adequate protection, it must be proportionate with the degree of hazard, installed correctly, tested annually and repaired as necessary.



What You Can Do

Modern water-using fixtures and appliances are made to guard against backflow. Many sinks, toilets, clothes washers and other water-using appliances have built-in backflow prevention features. The most common hazard leading to a backflow incident at a residence is through an underground irrigation system. Other potential hazards also exist in swimming pools, hot tubs, garden hoses, heating/cooling and fire sprinkler systems.

State drinking water rules require backflow prevention assemblies that protect public water systems to be tested by state Department of Health-certified backflow assembly testers (BATs) using field test procedures acceptable to the department (WAC 246-290-490). For information on backflow testers and Washington state regulations, check out Skagit PUD's Cross-Connection Control page at *SkagitPUD.org* or call (360) 848-2138.