

## What is cross connection?

A cross connection is any connection or potential connection between piping that carries drinking water (also known as potable) and the piping or fixtures that carry other types of water or substances that are not safe to drink (also known as non-potable). Backflow prevention devices are installed to prevent reversal flow back into the potable water system.



Sprinkler systems are the most common reason for a backflow device

### Are you keeping your family's drinking water safe?

Do you have a lawn sprinkler system, boiler, swimming pool, water feature, or a well and City water?

If you answered yes to any of these potential hazards and do not have a backflow prevention assembly you could be at risk and should install a backflow assembly.



Attn: Backflow Program  
925 S. Main Street  
Lebanon, OR 97355

Phone: 541.258.4918

Email: [cdc@ci.lebanon.or.us](mailto:cdc@ci.lebanon.or.us)

## City of Lebanon



## Backflow Prevention Requirements

## What is Backflow?

Backflow is the unwanted and undesirable flow of non-potable water or other liquids back into the water supply system from a consumer's premises.

There are two basic causes of backflows. They happen when.

1. Sudden drop in the water mains pressure causes the water to siphon back into the system



2. The water supply is directly connected to equipment which is at a higher pressure than the water supply system, forcing water into the supply system.

**Without the proper protection, turning on your water does not guarantee you safe, clean drinking water.**

A break in the main is the simplest cause of liquids siphoning back into the water supply system. The break sets up a vacuum or partial vacuum in the pipes, sucking liquids in. The same effect can be produced by heavy demand from fire fighting or from flushing the pipes.

### Cross Connection Program

The Operations Division maintains the City of Lebanon's Backflow Testing Program. Scheduled test notices are mailed to all properties that have backflow assembly on their annual due date. The property owners are responsible for having the assemblies tested by State Certified Testers. These Certified Testers submit a report to the City.

## Backflow Prevention Requirements

In accordance with Oregon State Health Division Administrative Rules Chapter 333, Section 61-070, and the City of Lebanon Municipal Code, we are required to ask you to protect against possible backflow by using one of the three options stated below.

1. Stay hooked to the city water system and protect against backflow by installing an approved backflow prevention assembly.
2. Keep your well, sprinkler system or other hazard without a connection to the city water. The city will remove your water meter upon your request.
3. Abandon your hazard, and stay connected to city water. This method would eliminate the need for a backflow prevention assembly behind your water meter.

Backflow prevention assemblies can be installed by the homeowner or any certified plumber. The homeowner is responsible for all costs associated with the backflow assembly (installation, testing and maintenance). All work is subject to field inspection; so, an installation permit is required and may be obtained at the City of Lebanon, Community Development Center, 925 S. Main Street.

### Special Note for Well Owners

If you have a well the type of backflow assembly needed can be determined after a sample of your well water has been analyzed.

For State of Oregon requirements on well abandonment please contact the Water Resources Department for the State of Oregon at (503) 986-0851 or visit their web site at <http://egov.oregon.gov/OWRD>.

## Backflow Contract Pricing

The city has entered into a professional services maintenance contract offering water customers a reduced rate for testing residential-type backflow assemblies where the water service line is one inch or less.

Residential water customers opting to elect the service coverage would pay for the service once a year as part of their water bill.

Property owners may decide not to use the program and, instead, use a certified tester of their own choice.

For information including pricing or to sign up for the program please visit our website at [www.LebanonOregon.gov/maintops](http://www.LebanonOregon.gov/maintops), stop by our office at 925 S. Main Street or call 541.258.4918.

### Thermal Expansion (Caution)

Thermal expansion, caused when water is heated, may raise the static pressure in your hot water tank. Please check the relief valve on the water heater to ensure it is operating properly and any excess pressure will be released. The backflow prevention assembly will not allow this excess pressure to back up into the city water system. Relief valves may become stuck in the closed position. If this happens, damage to your water heater or plumbing may result. You may also choose to install a small expansion chamber or tank in the supply line to your water heater.

**Example of one type of Thermal Expansion Valve.**

