

BACKFLOW HAZARDS

Any of the following elements on your property may put you and your family at risk.

- **Hose Connections**
- **Inground Sprinkler or Irrigation Systems**
- **Swimming Pools/ Hot Tubs**
- **Sump Pump Systems**
- **Boiler/Radiator Heating Systems**
- **Yard Hydrants**
- **Wells, Cisterns or other Auxiliary Water Systems**
- **Booster or Jockey pumps**
- **Fire Prevention Systems**
- **Commercial Properties**



WHAT AM I POTENTIALLY BEING EXPOSED TO?

If you use **weed sprayers or chemical treatments that connect directly to your hose, or submerge the end of your hose** in a pool or soapy water, any loss in pressure will cause the **pool water or any chemical treatments** you use to be **pulled backwards into the public water supply**.

Any **autofilling swimming pools or hot tubs** have the potential to pull the **chlorinated water** back into the system, **contaminating both you and your neighbors drinking water**.

In-ground sprinklers or irrigation systems, when experiencing backflow, can contaminate the water system with **fertilizer, pesticides, or animal waste**.

Sump pumps drain devices and yard hydrants may pull **previously drained water** back into the system.

Chemical additive boiler/radiator heating systems may pull the **chemical additives** back into the system. Water-only boiler/radiator systems could **affect the taste and smell of the water**.

Wells, cisterns or other auxiliary water systems contain water that is not supplied by the City of Akron, and has **unknown quality levels**.

WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

For **Inground Sprinklers or Irrigation Systems, Swimming Pools, Hot Tubs, Water Sump Drain Systems and Chemical Additive Boiler/Radiator Heating/Fire Prevention Systems:**

- A **reduced pressure backflow assembly** must be installed on the supply line and **annual testing is required (ASSE 1013)**.

For **Water Only Boiler/Radiator Heating:**

- An **intermediate atmospheric vent** is required to be installed on the boiler feed line **(ASSE 1012)**.

For **Water Only Fire Sprinkler Systems:**

- A double check assembly must be installed **(ASSE 1015)**.

For **Hose Connections:**

- A **vacuum breaker** is required to be installed at the faucet or hose bib **(ASSE 1011)**.

For **Yard Hydrants:**

- Yard hydrants must be **sanitary** and installed to **manufacturer's specifications (ASSE 1057)**.

For **Wells, Cisterns, and other Auxiliary Water Systems:**

- **Auxiliary water systems are usually prohibited** on properties receiving public water. However, where they are permitted, a **reduced pressure backflow assembly** must be installed on the supply line and **annual testing** is required **(ASSE 1013)**.
- **Annual re-inspection** of the internal water piping will be required in order to **guarantee continued separation** of the public supply and the auxiliary supply are maintained.

For **Commercial Properties and Booster or Jockey Pumps:**

- The **requirements will be determined by the City of Akron** based upon the degree of risk to the water supply.