

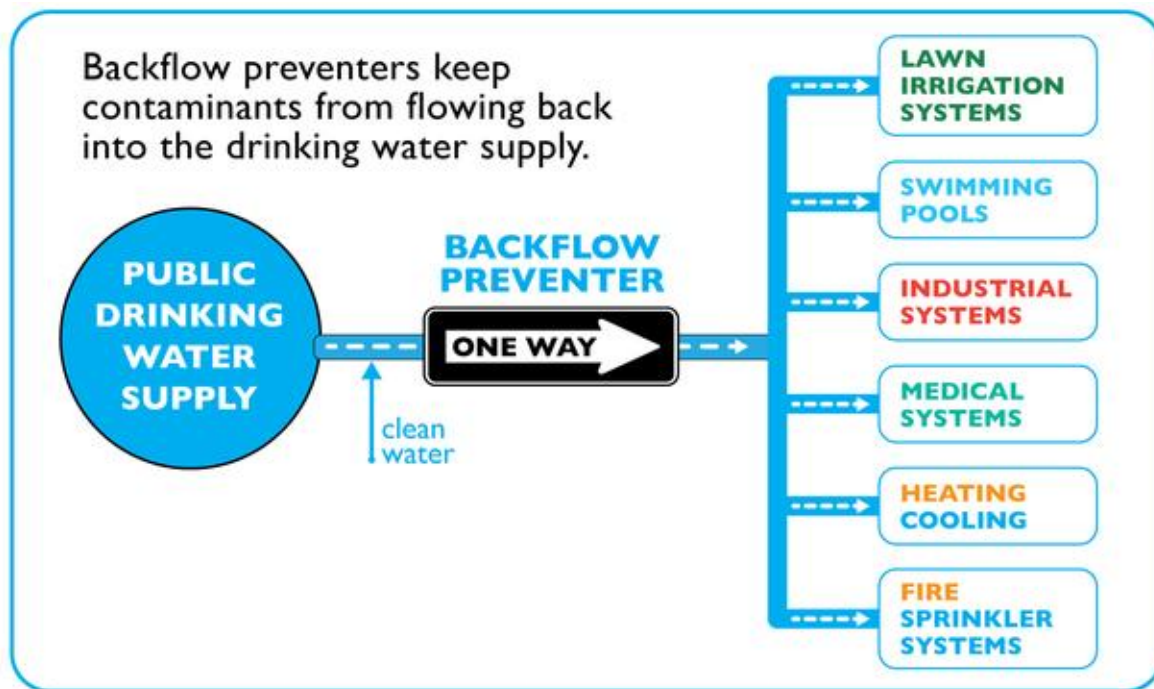
Protect Your Drinking Water — What You Need to Know About Backflow Prevention

What is Backflow / Cross-Connection?

- A **cross-connection** is any point where non-potable water (e.g. irrigation, pool, boiler, hose) is connected (directly or indirectly) to your potable (drinking) water line.
- **Backflow** is when water flows in reverse from your plumbing back into the public water system carrying potential pollutants or contaminants.

Why It Matters

Risk	Potential Problem
Health & Safety	Contaminants (chemicals, bacteria, fertilizers) can enter the water supply
System integrity	Degrades trust in water quality may lead to public notices or boil orders
Compliance	Cities often require backflow protection for high-risk connections



What You Can Do

- Use hose-bib vacuum breakers on outdoor faucets
- Never submerge hoses in ponds, sinks, or buckets
- Avoid using spray attachments without protection
- Notify your water provider of new equipment
- Keep copies of test certificates
- Respond promptly to notices

For more information, please visit our website at: www.kirklandwa.gov/backflow-prevention or contact the City of Kirkland's Cross Connection Control Office at 425-587-3900.

