

PROTECT YOUR DRINKING WATER

INSTALL A BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE

Each day, DEP delivers 1 billion gallons of fresh, clean water from upstate reservoirs to the taps of 8.6 million New Yorkers. We also perform more than 650,000 drinking water quality tests each year and work to prevent contamination to the water supply before it ever occurs. However, if connections to your plumbing system are not properly protected with a backflow prevention device, the public water supply is at risk of becoming contaminated.



What is backflow contamination?

Your drinking water is pushed from the city's water main into your property's plumbing by pressure and it should only flow in one direction. Sometimes, due to pressure changes in pipes, the water can flow backwards into city water lines and could contaminate the public water supply with human waste or chemicals.

How can I protect my drinking water?

New York State law requires certain properties and businesses to install, maintain and test backflow prevention devices, which stop contaminated water from flowing backwards into the main water supply.

[Failing to do so could result in fines or the disconnection of your water service.](#)

What properties are required to have Backflow Prevention Devices?

- Properties with irrigation or sprinkler systems
- Auto Repair Shops
- Barber Shops and Beauty Salons
- Car Washes
- Medical, Dental, Lab, and Veterinary Facilities
- Laundries and Dry Cleaners

*For a complete list of properties visit nyc.gov/dep/backflow.

Questions?

Visit nyc.gov/dep/backflow, email connections@dep.nyc.gov, or call 311.

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