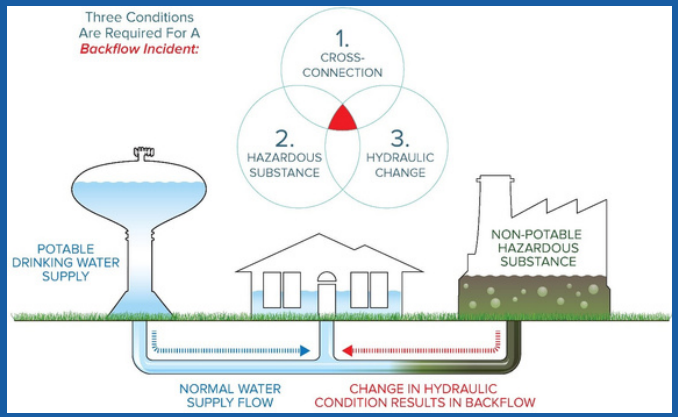
Your local water provider is making improvements to protect the safety of drinking water. Here's why.

Delaware's Department of Health Code 4462 requires specific backflow prevention devices, methods, and assemblies to isolate cross-connection control hazards associated with potable water supply plumbing.

PREVENTING THE HAZARDS OF BACKFLOW

Delaware water providers are responsible for ensuring that water is safe for everyone to drink. However, certain conditions known as cross-connections may allow hazardous substances to contaminate your own – or the public's – water supply. A cross-connection is an actual or potential connection between the safe drinking water (potable) supply and a source of contamination or pollution. Cross connections can result in a hazardous event known as backflow, which can draw those contaminants into your drinking water supply.



Together we can work to keep your drinking water safe from the hazards of backflow and cross-connections to the public water system.

Resources

Tidewater Utilities, Inc.
www.TUIwater.com

Delaware Department of Health and Social Services Chapter 16, Code 4455 and Code 4462
https://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title16/

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water

American Water Works Association (AWWA)
www.awwa.org

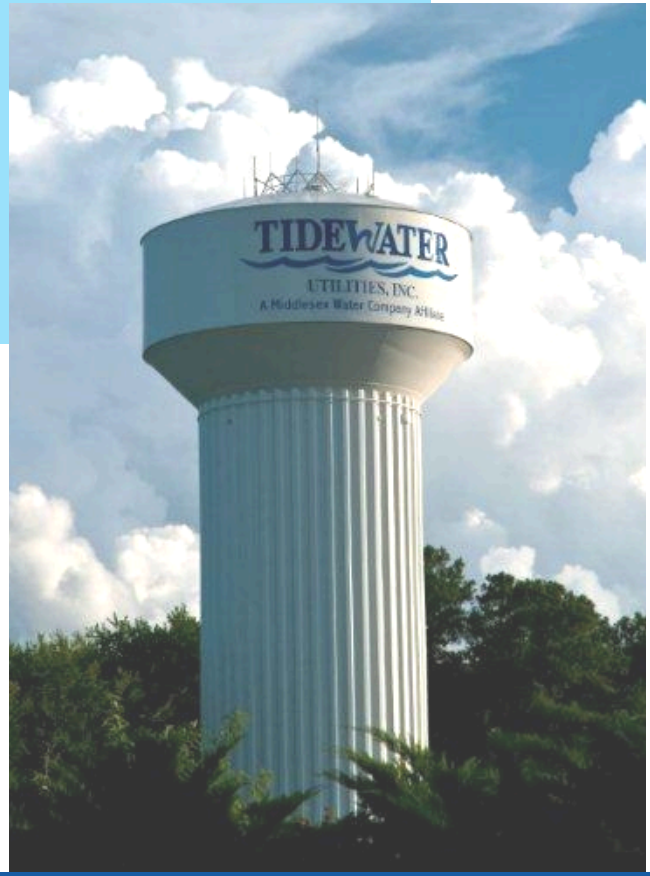
Delaware Rural Water Association (DRWA)
www.drwa.org

American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE)
https://asse-plumbing.org/media/qjubco5x/ccc-guidelines.pdf

GET IN TOUCH WITH US

CALL US
877-720-9272

TIDEWATER UTILITIES, INC.
A Middlesex Water Company Affiliate



KEEPING DRINKING WATER SAFE

TUIWater.com

HOW DOES THIS PROGRAM AFFECT ME?

As a business owner or homeowner, your cooperation is important to make this program work. By providing easy and courteous access to your facility or residence, your water utility or authorized agent can evaluate and help assure safe drinking water. They may identify unprotected cross-connections, and verify that the correct backflow prevention measure is properly installed at each service connection. Many inspections take as little as 10 minutes; more complex sites take longer. The “hazard” level associated with each connection determines the type of backflow prevention method.

WHAT IS A CROSS-CONNECTION HAZARD?

Cross-Connection is an actual or potential connection between the safe drinking water (potable) supply and a source of contamination or pollution. State plumbing codes require approved backflow prevention methods to be installed at every point of potable water connection and use. Cross-connections must be properly protected or eliminated.

COMMON CROSS-CONNECTION HAZARDS

Hose Bibbs - Boilers - Cleaning/Mop Stations - Lawn Irrigation Systems-
Fire Protection Systems - Lab & Medical Equipment - Restaurant Equipment - Power Washers/Sprayers - Water Softener Drains - Process Equipment

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A Middlesex Water Company Affiliate

WHAT IS BACKFLOW?

Water normally flows in one direction. Under certain conditions, water can actually flow backwards; this is known as backflow. There are two conditions that can cause water to flow backward: **backsiphonage and backpressure**.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION METHODS

Once the degree of hazard has been determined, the proper backflow preventer can be installed.

These are the basic methods are used:

- Air Gap
- Double check-valve assembly (DCVA)
- Reduced-pressure principle backflow preventer assembly (RP or RPZ).

Many cross-connections can be corrected with a simple hose bibb (faucet) vacuum breaker. This means equipping each hose connection, both outside and inside, with a simple, inexpensive vacuum breaker *(pictured right)*.

Back Siphonage

this may occur due to a loss of pressure in the public water system from a fire fighting emergency, water main break or system repair. This loss of pressure creates a siphon effect in the plumbing system which can draw water out of a sink, bucket, or pool and back into your water or public water system.

Back-Pressure

may be created when a source of pressure in your home plumbing system (such as a boiler or pump) creates a pressure greater than the water pressure supplied through the public water system. This may cause contaminated water to be pushed into your plumbing system through an unprotected cross-connection.