



Important Information about FGUA's Backflow Prevention & Cross-Connection Control Program

The Florida Governmental Utility Authority (FGUA) is regulated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As a result, we follow strict standards to provide clean and safe drinking water to our customers.

Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) 62-555.360 governs cross-connection control for public water systems and requires public water systems, and all public water systems that have service areas also served by reclaimed water systems regulated under Part III of Chapter 62-610, F.A.C., shall establish and implement a routine cross-connection control program to detect and control cross-connections and prevent the backflow of contaminants into the water system that create or have the potential to create an imminent and substantial danger to public health.

Wherever a source of water exists on your property, like a pool or well, other than FGUA's water supply, the possibility of contamination can occur. It is the FGUA's responsibility to ensure that the water delivered is safe to use and drink, including ensuring that all customer connections are free of contamination. To avoid contamination, FGUA requires the installation of an appropriate backflow prevention device whenever there is an actual or potential hazard for cross-connection.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a cross-connection?

A cross-connection is any physical connection between a possible source of contamination and any drinking water system piping.

What is backflow?

Backflow is the undesirable reversal of flow of water delivered through a water meter to a customer. This delivered water has the potential to be mixed with non-potable water or other substances through a cross-connection and returns to the piping of a public water system. There are two types of backflow – backpressure backflow and back siphonage.

What are some common backflow hazards that threaten homeowners and other consumers?

- Common garden hose connections to chemical solution aspirators to feed lawn and shrub herbicides, pesticides or fertilizers.
- Lawn irrigation systems.
- Swimming pools, hot tubs, spas, fountains.
- Private and/or non-potable water supplies such as wells, located on the property.



The garden hose is the most common cross-connection offender

What are some examples of cross-connection and backflow scenarios?

- Chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides, soapy water or cleaning compounds back siphoned into your water supply plumbing through a garden hose attached to a sprayer or a hose or faucet submerged in a bucket.
- A hose submerged in a swimming pool creates a pathway for pool water to enter your water supply plumbing.
- A connection between a private well supply and the water being supplied by a public water system through the water supply plumbing.
- A booster pump on the customer's irrigation or pool system creating back pressure into the public water supply

Why are backflow preventers needed?

Backflow preventers are designed and installed to prevent the flow of water backwards through a pipe. This keeps pollutants and contaminants from flowing into the public water supply system.

Why do backflow preventers have to be tested periodically?

Mechanical backflow preventers have internal seals, springs, and moving parts that are subject to fouling, wear, or fatigue and therefore must be tested with properly calibrated equipment to ensure they are working correctly.

What is FGUA's responsibility?

The FGUA is responsible for enforcing the cross-connection control program in order to ensure compliance with all state and federal standards. The FGUA has partnered with BSI Online, a backflow management firm, to assist in administering the backflow program. The FGUA thru BSI Online, will annually notify all customers that it is time to have their backflow prevention device tested.

What is the Customer's responsibility?

The customer is responsible for hiring a licensed technician to install, test or repair their backflow prevention device. The customer is responsible for all costs associated with the installation, operation, maintenance, testing and/or repair of their backflow prevention device.

If you receive a notice that you need to have a backflow prevention device installed, tested or repaired, there will be additional instructions in the notice with regard to the timeframe you have to install, test, or repair your device along with instructions on where to submit documentation.

Who can install, repair and test my backflow prevention device and where should documentation be submitted?

Installation, repair and testing of your backflow prevention device must be performed by a technician licensed and certified in the installation, testing and repair of backflow assemblies.

The FGUA has partnered with BSI Online, a backflow management firm, to assist in administering the backflow program. BSI Online has great resources, such as backflow prevention device testers and repair technicians, available to customers. Once the device has been installed and certified, the certification must be filed with BSI Online at bsionline@backflow.com or fax to 1-888-414-4990. Businesses may also contact BSI via e-mail (bsionline@backflow.com) or phone ([800-414-4990](tel:800-414-4990)) with general questions or additional information regarding testing.

For general installation related questions please contact FGUA's CCCP Administrator Dave Gillette at 727-858-2394.

What if I don't comply?

Any customer failing to comply with this program shall be deemed non-compliant and water service may be terminated by FGUA. Water service shall not be restored until the customer has complied with the requirements of this program and paid any applicable fees relating to the reconnection of water service. In emergency situations where the public water supply is being contaminated or is in immediate danger of contamination, water service may be immediately disconnected at FGUA's discretion. FGUA may also after proper notification to the customer of testing requirements and failure to receive said annual testing certifications perform the annual certifications of which costs will be the sole responsibility of the customer.

Where can I obtain more information about FGUA's Backflow Prevention & Cross-Connection Control Program?

To view FGUA's Cross Connection Control Policy, customers may visit the cross-connection control section of the FGUA website at <https://www.fgua.com/communities/cross-connections/>.

For general information regarding backflow prevention and cross connection control the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have great information and links are provided below.

<https://floridadep.gov/water/source-drinking-water/content/cross-connection-control-and-backflow-prevention-program>

<https://floridadep.gov/water/domestic-wastewater/content/cross-connection-control>

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/epa816r03002_0.pdf