

What You Can Do To Protect Your Drinking Water From Contamination

Be involved in keeping your (and your neighbor's) drinking water safe from contamination. The most common way contaminants enter the drinking water system are through **cross-connections** in your home plumbing system. A **cross-connection** is an actual or potential link between your home plumbing, and a non-potable water source, such as a sink full of dirty water or a hose-end sprayer full of poison. **Backflow** is just what it sounds like: water flowing backward in an unintended direction. **Backflow** from a **cross-connection** can occur when pressure in the water main drops below the line pressure in your home causing **backsiphonage**. This effect can suck water back through a hose or pipe from wash basins, ponds, boilers, lawn sprinklers, swimming pools, hot tubs, etc., into your home's plumbing or even back into the Public Water System. Inexpensive Hose Bibb Vacuum Breakers (available at most any hardware store) installed on each of your threaded faucets could prevent you from drinking what the end of a hose has been left in. **Backpressure** can also initiate **backflow**; this could be **thermal expansion** from the hot water tank or the water in your hose being expanded by heat from the sun, or a pump on a non-potable water source accidentally connected to your home piping. Please fill out the **Water Use Questionnaire** as accurately as possible. We will use this information to evaluate whether your house will need to be isolated from the Public Water System by a **backflow** preventer. Any device that uses water and is connected to your home water system (plumbing) can and should be mentioned, even if not included in the questionnaire.

CONDITIONS FOR PROVIDING SERVICE

Rainier View Water Company, hereinafter referred to as the **Purveyor**, establishes the following service policy to protect the purveyor-owned water system from the risk of contamination. This policy applies equally to new and existing services. Based on the mandatory Water Use Questionnaire submitted with your application for service, and the Purveyor's assessed degree of hazard:

- 1) Non-Residential services and Multi-Family services will be required to install and maintain, at a minimum, a double check valve assembly (DCVA/DCDA).
- 2) Single Family services, based on the Purveyor's assessed degree of hazard, might be permitted to connect to the water system without an approved DCVA (Special Plumbing, such as, but not limited to, underground irrigation systems, pools, hot tubs, or watering troughs may require customer installation of an approved backflow assembly).
- 3) All services coming under Table 9, WAC 246-290-490, High Hazard Facilities (as expanded by the Purveyor) will be required to install and maintain an RPBA (reduced pressure principle backflow assembly) or approved Air Gap.
- 4) Customer's plumbing system must be maintained according to the Plumbing Code in force at the time of construction/remodeling/updating of plumbing, and must be protected from the effects of thermal expansion resulting from check valves at the meter, pressure reduction valves and water heater or broiler.
- 5) The customer agrees to install all backflow prevention assemblies requested by the Purveyor and to maintain those assemblies in good working order. The assemblies shall be of a type, size, and make approved by DOH and acceptable to the Purveyor. The assemblies shall be installed in accordance with WAC 246-290-490.
- 6) The customer agrees to have all assemblies (e.g., RPBAs and/or DCVAs) inspected and tested upon installation, annually thereafter and/or more frequently, if requested by the Purveyor, repaired or relocated.
- 7) The customer agrees to have all testing done by DOH-certified Backflow Assembly Test (BAT).
- 8) The customer agrees to have the RPBA or DCVA tested in accordance with DOH-approved test procedures.
- 9) The customer agrees to submit to the Purveyor the results of the test(s) on Purveyor-supplied test report forms within the time period specified by the Purveyor.
- 10) The customer agrees to bear all costs for the aforementioned installation, testing, repair, maintenance and replacement of the RPBA, RPDA, DCVA, or DCDA.
- 11) If required by the Purveyor, the customer agrees to submit to the Purveyor a cross-connection control survey of the premises conducted by a DOH-certified Cross-Connection Control Specialist (CCS).
- 12) The customer agrees to immediately notify the Purveyor and the local health jurisdiction of any backflow incident occurring within the customer's premises (i.e., entry of any contaminant/pollutant into the drinking water) and shall cooperate fully with the Purveyor to determine the reason for the backflow incident.

- 13) The customer acknowledges the right of the Purveyor to discontinue the water supply within 72 hours of giving notice to the customer or a lesser period of time if required to protect public health, if the customer fails to cooperate with the Purveyor in the application process (including Water Use Questionnaire), survey of premises, in the installation, inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, of backflow prevention assemblies or air gaps required by the Purveyor, or in the Purveyor's effort to contain a contaminant or pollutant that is detected in the customer's system.
- 14) The customer agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Purveyor for all contamination of the customer's plumbing system or the Purveyor's distribution system that results from an unprotected or inadequately protected cross connection within a customer's premises. This indemnification shall pertain to all backflow conditions that may arise from the Purveyor's suspension of water supply or reduction of water pressure.
- 15) The customer agrees that, in the event legal action is required and commenced between the Purveyor and the customer to enforce the terms and conditions herein, the substantially prevailing party shall be entitled to reimbursement of all incurred costs and expenses including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees as determined by the Court.
- 16) The customer agrees that the Purveyor's requirements for the installation of backflow prevention assemblies, lack of requirements for the installation of backflow prevention assemblies, or other actions by the Purveyor's personnel does not constitute and approval of the customer's plumbing system or an assurance to the customer of the absence of cross-connections therein or the safety of his plumbing.
- 17) The customer acknowledges the right of the Purveyor, in keeping with changes to Washington State regulations, industry standards, or the Purveyor's risk management policies, to impose retroactive requirements for additional cross-connection control measures.
- 18) **Customer agrees to detach and retain these Conditions of Service for future reference.**
- 19) **The Customer agrees that upon all changes in water use, alterations and additions to the plumbing, to notify the Purveyor and to comply with any additional requirements for Cross Connection Control.**