



## BACKFLOW PREVENTION PROGRAM

### *Let's all do our part to keep our drinking water safe!*

The Backflow Prevention Program strives to protect our drinking water from cross connections which may contaminate our drinking water. This program was established by the City of Barrie in 2010 under the By-law 2017-121, to satisfy requirements from the Ontario Building Code (OBC) in accordance with the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) B64.

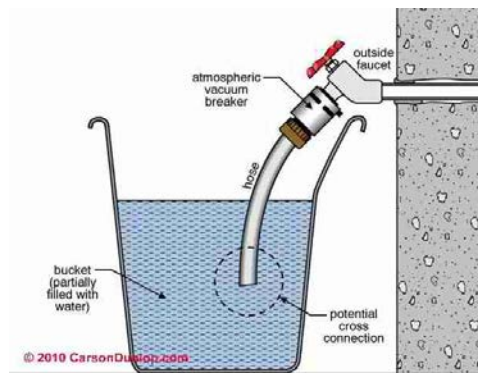
City staff from the Water Operations Branch are here to help you comply with this By-law. This By-law applies to all industrial, commercial, institutional and multi-residential property owners.

**Cross-Connection:** A cross-connection is any connection between drinking water and any source of pollution or contamination. Cross connections pose a hazard to the drinking water system if backflow was to occur and contaminated water is drawn back into the drinking water.

### **What is Backflow?**

Backflow is defined as the undesired reversal of water flow within a plumbing system. This can occur two ways:

1. **Backpressure:** Occurs when the pressure within a building is greater than the drinking water system pressure. This results in the water within that building being forced backward and into the drinking water system. These situations can occur in high rise buildings as a result of increasing pressures to pump water to the upper floors.
2. **Back Siphonage:** Occurs when the pressure in the drinking water system is decreased to a negative pressure resulting in the water within the building to be sucked into the drinking water system. This can be caused by a water main break, hydrant flushing operations or firefighting operations, to name a few.



In these instances the unprotected cross connections to the drinking water system which contain pollutants or contaminants, have the potential to be drawn or forced back into the drinking water piping and distributed throughout the system. This results in unsafe conditions on your property and places the drinking water system at risk, as well as, citizens of the community.

# The Three Steps to Protect Public Health and Safety

**1. Identify:** Obtain the services of a Qualified Person (QP). A QP has registered with the City of Barrie and has provided proof of current certifications, insurances and calibrated testing equipment. All QPs operate independently and are in no way affiliated with the City of Barrie.

The City of Barrie will mail a letter entitled “Notice to Comply with Section 6.0 Required Surveys” when the property requires a **Cross Connection Control Survey** to be completed. Have a Survey performed by the QP of your choice on your property. This will identify any hazardous cross connections within your plumbing system.

This survey is a preliminary inspection of the facility to identify potential or existing cross connections within the building’s plumbing system. The overall degree of hazard of the property will be classified as per the CSA B64 Standard and will be listed on the **Cross Connection Control Survey**. A survey must be completed every 5 years by a QP and submitted by the owner or the QP to the City for review.

Once the City of Barrie has received and reviewed your survey, a letter entitled “Cross Connection Survey Results and Installation Requirements” with a copy of your approved survey, will be mailed to you.

**2. Correct:** All corrective measures listed on your **Cross Connection Control Survey** must be completed.

This ensures you are doing your part in maintaining safe drinking water in our community. This includes the following:

- Obtain several quotes
- Complete the work listed on the **Cross Connection Control Survey**
- Have your backflow prevention devices tested by a qualified person registered with the City
- Ensure test/maintenance report documents are submitted to the City’s Water Operations Branch

**3. Maintain:** Ensure your backflow prevention devices are tested and maintained **each and every year**.

In order to comply with the City’s By-law, testable backflow preventers shall be field tested at the following times:

- a) upon installation;
- b) when cleaned, repaired, or overhauled;
- c) when relocated;
- d) annually
- e) change of property ownership



The City of Barrie will mail a letter entitled “Annual Cross Connection Control Testing/Maintenance” to you every year. This letter serves as a reminder that your current backflow prevention devices are due for annual testing.

Applicable fees will be applied within City’s Fees By-law. For more information and a copy of the Fees By-law, please visit [www.barrie.ca/Bylaws](http://www.barrie.ca/Bylaws).

Thank you in advance for doing your part to help protect and maintain our safe drinking water for all who work, visit, and reside in our community.

For more information and a copy of the By-law for Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control, please visit [www.barrie.ca/WaterServices](http://www.barrie.ca/WaterServices). If you have any questions, please contact the City of Barrie Water Operations Branch by phone at: 705-739-4220 ext. 4890 or email at: [backflow@barrie.ca](mailto:backflow@barrie.ca)