



# Mecklenburg County Health Department

## BACKFLOW PREVENTION

If the potential for back-siphonage or backflow conditions exist, an approved atmospheric vacuum breaker or backflow prevention device shall be installed in accordance with the North Carolina Plumbing Code.

**QUESTION:** What is backflow?

**ANSWER:** Backflow is the undesirable reversal of flow of non-potable water or other substances through a cross-connection and into the piping of a public water system or consumer's potable water system. There are two types of backflow: backpressure backflow and back-siphonage.

**QUESTION:** What is backpressure backflow?

**ANSWER:** Backpressure backflow is backflow caused by a downstream pressure that is greater than the upstream or supply pressure in a public water system or consumer's potable water system. Backpressure (i.e. downstream pressure that is greater than the potable water supply pressure) can result from an increase in downstream pressure, a reduction in the potable water supply pressure, or a combination of both. Increases in downstream pressure can be created by pumps, temperature increases in boilers, etc. Reductions in potable water supply pressure occur whenever the amount of water being used exceeds the amount of water being supplied, such as during water line flushing, firefighting, or breaks in water mains

### Examples of a backflow prevention device:



### **RULE REFERENCES:**

**CHILDCARE**

(15A NCAC 18A .2815)

**INSTITUTIONS**

(15A NCAC 18A .1313 (b))

**SCHOOLS**

(15A NCAC 18A .2405)

**RESIDENTIAL CARE**

(15A NCAC 18A .1611 (c))

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