


Backflow Prevention Devices: Preventing Cross Contamination in Water Systems



What is the Backflow Prevention Device Program?

Devices/units are installed on water service lines or at plumbing fixtures to prevent contaminants from entering the potable (drinking) water systems – this is caused by the reversal of the flow of water back into the water supply.

What to know about Backflow Prevention...

- Program covers all potable (drinking) water systems at both the mine and townsite.
- ADEQ requires that Backflow Prevention Devices are tested annually.
- An ADEQ Backflow Device Testing Certification is required in order to test and/or repair these units.

What you can do.....

- Notify Environmental Services and Contractor Management when:
 - a new or replacement of a defective Backflow Prevention Device/Unit is needed.
 - an existing Backflow Prevention Device/Unit will need to be moved or eliminated.
- If you see a potential problem with a backflow device (leaking, broken, missing, etc), inform your supervisor and/or call Environmental Services. **NO backflow device can be installed, removed and/or repaired without approval from Environmental Services.**
- Prior approval is necessary before a new piece of equipment can be tied into an existing water system. (Examples include septic systems, swamp coolers, compressors, ice machines, and eye wash stations/safety showers) - including any new construction that requires a backflow prevention device. A Management of Change (MOC) request must be submitted.

Additional information....

- Potable/non-potable water signage is **critical** to properly communicate for everyone's safety. If signage is missing, report it to your supervisor.
- **REMEMBER: Potable = Drinking Water, Non-Potable = Water Unsafe to Drink**

DID YOU KNOW..... Over 280 backflow prevention devices/units are tested each year at the mine and town site.

