

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 will be performing a hazard analysis of the external premises of all commercial and residential customers.

The FGUA will notify you if a potential or actual cross-connection is identified and a timeframe for you to install an approved backflow prevention device.

The FGUA will annually notify all customers that it is time to have their backflow prevention device tested and will provide a list of certified testers in the area.

What is the Customer's responsibility?

The customer is responsible for protecting the water on their property. The responsibility starts at the water meter and includes your entire property's water system.

The customer is responsible for all costs associated with the installation, operation, maintenance, testing and/or repair of their backflow prevention device.

The customer is responsible for having their backflow prevention device tested annually by a technician licensed and certified to do so. The customer shall submit said testing records to the FGUA.

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 make the repair and submit the properly certified documentation to FGUA.

Who can install, repair and test my backflow prevention device?

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. Certified documentation of the installation, repair or testing, on forms approved by FGUA shall be submitted to the FGUA for record keeping. If you are notified, a list of approved vendors will also be provided.

What if I don't comply?

Any person 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.

Operations Office:

Florida Governmental Utility Authority
280 Wekiva Springs Road, Suite 2000
Longwood, Florida 32779
Phone: 407-629-6900
Fax: 407-629-6963

Lehigh Acres Office

866-302-1615
E-mail: FguaCS_Lehigh@govserv.com

Golden Gate Office

800-818-9677
E-mail: FguaCS_GoldenGate@govserv.com

FLORIDA GOVERNMENTAL UTILITY AUTHORITY

Backflow Prevention & Cross-Connection Control Program

*Lehigh Acres and Golden Gate
Utility Systems*

FLORIDA
GOVERNMENTAL
UTILITY AUTHORITY



Backflow Prevention, it's required by Law!

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 in Lehigh Acres and Golden Gate.

Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) 62-555.360 governs cross-connection control for public water systems and requires customers found to have a potential or actual cross-connection contamination hazard to eliminate the hazard by installing an appropriate backflow prevention device at the service connection.

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. To avoid contamination, FGUA requires the installation of an appropriate backflow prevention device whenever there is an actual or potential haz-



The garden hose is the most common cross connection offender.

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 non-potable water or other substances through a cross-connection and into the piping of a public water system. There are two types of backflow—backpressure backflow and backsiphonage.

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 located on the property.

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.

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.

Where can I get more information about cross-connection control and backflow prevention?

One excellent reference manual is the second (1990) edition of the American Water Works Association's (AWWA's) Manual M14, Recommended Practice for Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection Control which is available at <http://www.awwa.org/Bookstore/index.cfm?&navitemNumber=1414> or by calling 800-926-7337.

Another excellent reference manual is the ninth (1993) edition of the University of Southern California's manual of Cross-Connection Control which is available at <http://www.usc.edu/dept/fccchr/> or by calling 213-740-2032.



Common residential backflow preventer

Continued.