

# TESTING YOUR BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY

## 1. Find a tester

The first step in testing your backflow is finding one of our registered certified testers. This list can be found at [templetx.gov/backflowtesters](http://templetx.gov/backflowtesters)

## 2. Contact the tester of your choice to schedule a date and time for the tester to come to your house and perform the test.

- Contact information is provided on our certified tester list.
- The tester is responsible for completing the City of Temple Test & Maintenance form and submitting it to the Environmental Programs office by one of the following:
  - In person at **1909 Curtis B Elliot; Patsy Luna Bldg** – after hours drop box available
  - Email: [backflowinfo@templetx.gov](mailto:backflowinfo@templetx.gov)
  - Mail: **City of Temple; Public Works; Environmental Programs; 3210 E Ave H; #123; Temple, TX 76501**

*NOTE: Reports are due no later than 10 days of test date.*

## DEFINITIONS

### Cross-Connections

A cross-connection is a point in a plumbing system where it is possible for a non-potable substance to come in contact with the potable drinking water supply.

Common Cross Connections include;

- Garden Hoses
- Lawn Sprinkler Systems
- Water Softeners
- Private Wells

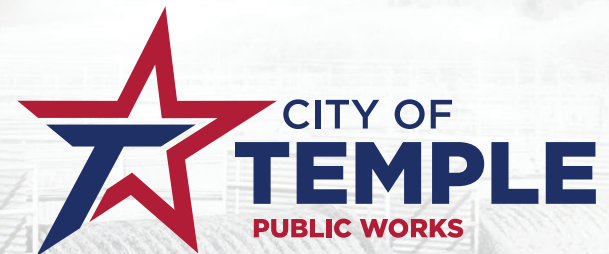
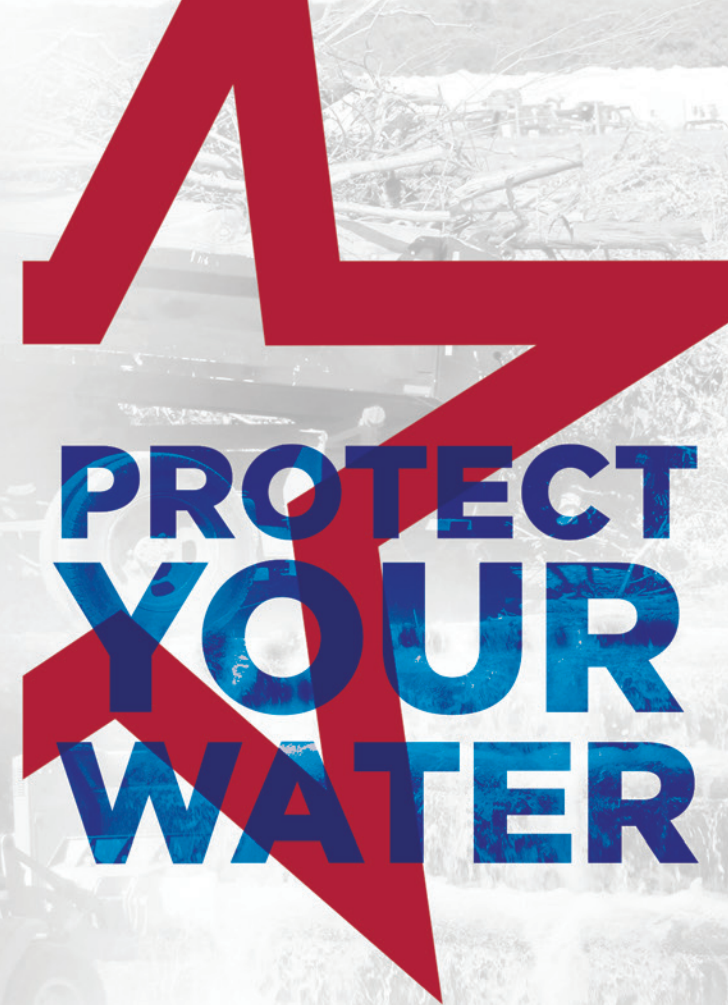
### Backflow

When water backflows, it can carry contaminants back into your **home** and/or the water distribution supply.

### Protect Your Water

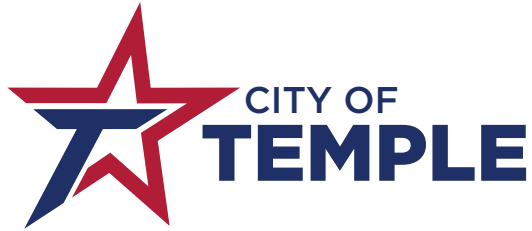
2. Protect hose bibs (outside faucets) by installing a vacuum breaker on all hose bibs capable of having a hose attached.
3. Have the backflow assembly tested by a certified tester as required.
5. Never use unprotected faucets to fill containers such as pools, stock tanks, hot tubs, etc.

*Protect your drinking water and your community's water supply by ensuring you are taking the proper measures to properly protect cross-connections.*



## ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

1909 CURTIS B ELLIOTT DR., TEMPLE, TX 76501  
254.298.5619 | [TEMPLETX.GOV/BACKFLOW](http://TEMPLETX.GOV/BACKFLOW)  
[BACKFLOWINFO@TEMPLETX.GOV](mailto:BACKFLOWINFO@TEMPLETX.GOV)



## WHY SHOULD I CARE?

Short Answer: Your drinking water could be contaminated with chemicals and fertilizers. You don't want that!

If a loss in water pressure occurs, it could cause a back-siphon, a vacuum effect. The water you are using through the water hose or lawn sprinkler head could be drawn backward, into a faucet inside your home and/or the public water supply.

This vacuum effect essentially sucks in the water and everything... yes everything... around it, including chemicals, fertilizers, animal feces, bacteria, etc. This dirty water can then come out of your faucets and/or become a part of the drinking water supply.

## COMMON PROBLEMS

### Example #1

Cross Connection: Leaving your water hose submerged in a pool

Potential Backflow Problem: Should there be a loss in water pressure, the water from your pool could back siphon. This means any chemicals, bacteria, and anything else in the pool water could be sucked back into your home and/or the water distribution system.

### Example #2

Cross Connection: Connecting your hose to a spray bottle with fertilizer

Potential Backflow Problem: With an unexpected loss in water pressure, the water from your hose including the fertilizer or chemicals could be back siphoned into your home through the faucets, and/or into the public water distribution system.

### What Causes This?

Common causes of backflow in the water system are:

- A broken water main or distribution pipe
- Firefighters using large quantities of water to extinguish a fire

When these unfavorable events occur, pollutants or contaminants could be back-siphoned into the public water supply due to negative water pressures.

## HOW DO I PREVENT THIS?

- If you are unsure if you have a backflow assembly installed on an irrigation system, water softener etc. call the Environmental Programs Office at 254.298.5619. We are here to help! If you have a backflow assembly installed, have your backflow assembly tested as required:
- Immediately after installation of the assembly
- Whenever the assembly is moved
- A minimum of once per year (annually) if connected to an on-site sewage facility (septic) and once every five (5) years if connected to City sewer collection system
- Before re-occupancy of premises that have been vacated/unoccupied for 1 year
- Immediately after any repairs are made to the assembly

Backflow prevention assemblies have mechanical parts i.e. internal seals, springs, and moving parts that are subject to wear and tear just as a motor in a car. Testing your backflow assembly helps ensure it is in proper working order and that no contaminants can get back siphoned into your home and/or the public water supply.