

pending on your current pressure, you may consider the pressure drop to be unacceptable. It is also possible that the device could malfunction causing water to discharge out the bottom. It should be installed near a sump or floor drain to avoid flooding.

An annual test and inspection is also required for this option. Both can be provided during a single visit by a state-certified tester approved by Del-Co Water. Del-Co maintains a list of certified testers approved on our system. You will be sent an annual reminder and a list of approved backflow testers when it is time for your device to be tested. It is then up to you to arrange with a tester. All costs of the test and inspection are the responsibility of the homeowner.

Some types of alternative home heating sources may affect you

If your home is equipped with any type of heat exchange equipment, such as geothermal heating, solar heating, or a heat pump, that connects directly with your water supply, then an RP assembly is required within your home.

When will all this affect me?

If you are a new customer to our system, you are affected immediately and will need to decide which option you will select. If you select Option 1 or 2, you will have 90 days after service is established to make the changes to your auxiliary water system. If you select Option 3, you must have the RP assembly installed before service can be turned on to your home.

Existing customers known or suspected of having wells or cisterns on their property will be contacted to arrange an initial site survey. If an auxiliary water system is found, you will need to select an option. You will then have 90 days to make the necessary changes. Due to the large number of potential sites that must be investigated, it is anticipated to take several years to complete the initial surveys.

For more information, see the pamphlet:

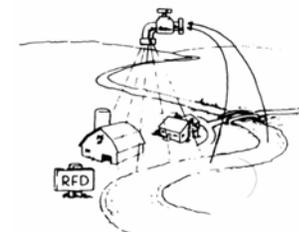
***Backflow Prevention and
Cross Connection Control
“Protecting Our Public
Water Systems”***

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What You Need to Know if You Have a Well or Cistern

... a guide for residential customers.



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What is backflow prevention?

All of us expect safe drinking water when we turn on our kitchen faucet. However, once water leaves the treatment plant it enters a massive piping distribution system. A *cross-connection* is any piping arrangement where backflow into the public water system might occur, increasing the risk of contamination. To protect you from this, Del-Co Water established a Backflow Prevention Program several years ago. The purpose of the program is to enforce the backflow regulations.

Backflow regulations at a glance

Backflow regulations for the State of Ohio are described in the Ohio Administrative Code §3745-95. Although the regulations are directed toward individual homeowners, Del-Co Water is impressed with the responsibility and authority of ensuring they are enforced everywhere on our water system. Del-Co Water's Backflow Prevention Program complies with the rules without change.

Originally born from the US Safe Drinking Water Act of 1972, the backflow prevention regulations in Ohio were last updated in May 2003. The latest modifications significantly changed the rules as they apply toward residential customers. Residents who have an auxiliary water system on their property, such as a well or cistern, are required to either control or abate their system according to the regulations. The rule changes are retroactive. Older homes that preexist the regulations are not "grand fathered" in, and must also meet the same conditions as new homes.

Note: The complete regulations can be found on the Ohio EPA website at: www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/oac.html

What are my Options?

If you are a prospective or existing Del-Co Water customer and have an auxiliary water system on your property, such as a well or cistern, you are required to do **one** of the following:

- 1. Remove the auxiliary water system from your property:** Generally, this includes removing the pump and piping from the well or cistern and physically disconnecting the connection outside your house. This option would discontinue anymore use of the well or cistern. If you abandon your well, you are required under OAC §3701-28 to follow proper well abandoning procedures and file a well sealing report with the Department of Health. See the Ohio Department of Natural Resource's *Technical Guidance for Sealing Unused Wells* at www.dnr.state.oh.us/water/pubs/pdfs/wellsealing.pdf. As required by OEPA, Del-Co will notify the local health department whenever wells are no longer being used.
- 2. Relocate all components of the auxiliary water system to outside your premises:** With this option, a well or cistern could still be used on your property as long as it is completely removed from your house, including all pumps, pressure tanks, piping, and other components that are a part of the auxiliary water system. Exterior hose bibs attached to the house that are a part of the auxiliary water system also need to be removed.
- 3. Install a backflow prevention device on the Del-Co service line to your house:** This option would also allow you to keep your auxiliary water system on your premises. A reduced pressure (RP) principle backflow prevention assembly would need to be installed on the Del-Co service line where it enters your house. In addition, your auxiliary water system piping must be physically disconnected from the Del-Co piping system in your house.

As required by the regulations, customers will be required to sign a Backflow Prevention Agreement at the time they select their option. Also note, some health departments require a permit for plumbing modifications. Contact your local health department for additional information.

Things to consider about your options

Unfortunately, with each option there are unique disadvantages. We want you to be fully aware of what these are before you decide.

Option One means you will no longer have use of your well or cistern. You may also need to contract with a well driller to have your well properly sealed.

Option Two requires that you relocate your pump and/or pressure tank outside your house where

you will have to protect it against freezing, possibly by locating it in a shed or barn. In addition, Del-Co Water is required by Ohio EPA to conduct annual inspections of your premises to ensure that the separation stays compliant with the regulations. This requires scheduling an inspection of your home when you are present.

Option Three requires that an RP assembly be installed in your home. The function of an RP assembly is to ensure that the pressure on the house side always remains lower than the Del-Co side, thereby eliminating the conditions required for a backflow occurrence. Be aware that the RP will lower the pressure at your house by 8 to 12 PSI. De-