

The responsibility for protecting the safety of our public water supply belongs to both the water utility and the consumer.

**Thank you for your cooperation and interest in the supply of clean, safe drinking water.**



**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA**



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City of  
**Punta Gorda**  
Water Department

## Drinking Water

### Safe Water and Backflow Prevention

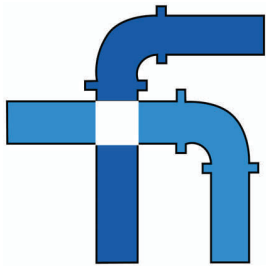
The City of Punta Gorda is dedicated to providing safe drinking water. Maintaining a strong backflow prevention program is vital to our success.

The city and its residents share the responsibility to protect Punta Gorda's water system. The city will provide a safe water supply to the residents, who, in turn, need to maintain plumbing systems in compliance with state and local ordinances, requirements, codes and policies.



# Backflow Prevention

Backflow incidents can seriously affect the quality and safety of your drinking water. Backflow is the reverse flow of contaminated water or other substances from a user's water system into the public drinking water. This can occur at cross-connections where your plumbing systems meet any source of contamination or pollution. Common examples of possible cross-connections include landscape sprinkling systems, hose attachments for utility sinks and garden hoses. Backflow prevention assemblies provide the public water system with protection against contamination or pollution.



cross-connection

## Safe Drinking Water: A National Effort

The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 established national standards for drinking water. State and local governments or water purveyors are charged with enforcing these standards, protecting the public water supply and delivering safe drinking water

## Safe Drinking Water: On the Local Level

Unprotected cross-connections with the potable water system are prohibited. Florida public water suppliers are required to implement cross-connection control programs as outlined by the administrative code chapter 62 555 360. Health officials, plumbing inspectors, municipalities and property owners must work together to insure safe potable water.

## How Cross-Connection Contamination Happens

Cross-connection contamination can occur as a result of *backpressure* or *backsiphonage*: both of which reverse the normal system flow. Backpressure and backsiphonage can result in non-potable water (e.g., well, canal, and reuse) or chemicals used in equipment or plumbing systems ending up in the drinking water line. Backpressure occurs when the pressure in the equipment or system, such as a hot water heater or a well is greater than the pressure in the drinking water line. Backsiphonage occurs when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to common occurrences such as water main breaks, nearby fires and unusually heavy water demand. Both backpressure and backsiphonage can cause contaminants to enter the water distribution system.

## Threats to the Drinking Water

Your drinking water can be compromised by pollution or contamination. Non-toxic substances generally cause pollution of the water supply and although these pollutants are not a health hazard they may cause the odor, taste or color of your water to be compromised. When toxic substances are introduced into the potable water the contaminated water can be a serious health hazard.

## Protecting The Potable Water

Installing a backflow assembly on the water line protects the integrity of your potable water from pollution and pollutants. In our effort to protect the potable water for every resident, requires the installation of a backflow assembly on every water meter. A certified tester or plumber must test the backflow assembly when installed. And a certified backflow prevention tester or plumber must test it annually. A list of certified plumbers and backflow testers is available from the City of Punta Gorda.

## Residential Survey / Irrigation System

The city's water department is performing a survey on every residents water system to determine if compliance with federal, state, and local laws and ordinances are up to code. If any deficiencies are found you will be informed. Any necessary corrective measures will require your attention.

