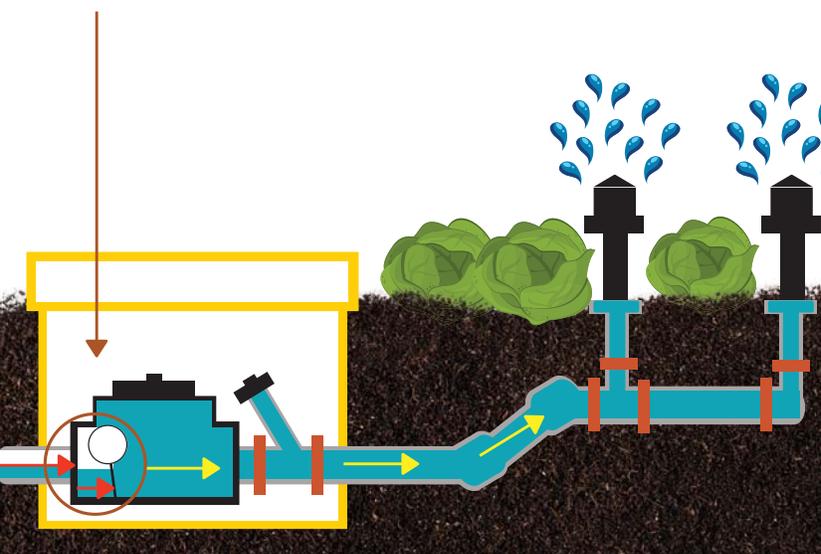


PREVENTING BACKFLOW

- Know your water system and assess backflow risks regularly. Draw out your water system, and use Google Maps or other imagery to assess its proximity to potential sources of contamination and identify all points where a backflow device may be needed.
- Prevent water flow in the wrong direction using a check valve, foot valve, or other device.
- Provide an easier flow path in a different direction that results in lower risk (using air gaps, floor sinks, etc.).
- Install a backflow preventer and test it annually. Note: some local governments require installation and regular inspection of backflow prevention devices in irrigation systems and other commercial uses. Installation may need to be done by a licensed plumber with a backflow certification.

A backflow device prevents water from traveling back into clean water sources.



REFERENCES

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3. ATS Irrigation, Inc. Do Your Irrigated Fields Need Backflow Preventers?. ATS Irrigation, Inc. <https://www.atsirrigation.com/do-your-irrigated-fields-need-backflow-preventers/>. Published 2017. Accessed July 24, 2019.

WHAT IS A BACKFLOW PREVENTER?

- A check valve, or a system of valves, installed into the feed line of a water system that allows water to go through in one direction, but prevents it from going backwards in the opposite direction.
 - Install preventers on the line that leads to the cross-connection or potential cross-connection.
 - Types of backflow preventers include control valves, atmospheric vacuum breaker (AVB) valves, pressure vacuum breakers, anti-siphon valves, and double check valve assemblies.

DO YOU NEED A BACKFLOW PREVENTER?

If you are covered by the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule:

- §112.41 states that "All agricultural water must be safe and of adequate sanitary quality for its intended use."
- §112.133(d) states your plumbing must "Not allow backflow from, or cross connection between, piping systems that discharge waste water or sewage and piping systems that carry water used for a covered activity, for sanitary operations, or for use in hand-washing facilities."
- In addition, under §112.42(c) you are required to "Adequately maintain all agricultural water sources to the extent they are under your control (such as wells). Such maintenance includes:
 - Regularly inspecting each source to identify any conditions that are reasonably likely to introduce known or reasonably foreseeable hazards into or onto covered produce or food contact surfaces;
 - Correcting any significant deficiencies (e.g. repairs to well cap, well casing, sanitary seals, piping tanks and treatment equipment, and control of cross-connections); and
 - Keeping the source free of debris, trash, domesticated animals, and other possible sources of contamination of covered produce to the extent practicable and appropriate under the circumstances."