



### BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE SURVEY

In an effort to ensure a complete inventory, PUD staff will be in your neighborhood conducting a survey of backflow prevention devices. Find more information on the back page about Backflow Prevention and device testing requirements.



2022 marks 35 years that the PUD has been serving Asotin County! The PUD was formed in 1984 and began operating the water system on April 1, 1987. The first attempt to form a Public Utility District in

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Asotin County occurred in 1940 in response to the increasing cost of water for orchardists. 1984 was no different; in response to a private company taking over the water system, and increasing rates, citizens formed a users group that brought the formation of the PUD to a vote in November 1984. The PUD purchased the system for \$8.1 million and the debt was paid off in 2012. Your PUD is operating debt free! Since formation we have grown to add electric and wastewater service and took ownership of the Port of Wilma water and sewer system. We are the last PUD to be formed in the State of Washington.

### Planned 2022 Capital Improvement Projects

- Water Main Replacements
  - ◆ Libby Street—6th Street to 13th Street
  - ◆ Frost Lane—Lambert Drive to 18th Ave. Court
  - ◆ Walk Lane—Hillyard Drive to Walk Court
- Well 1 — Emergency Backup Generator



### Capital Improvement Project Stats 2012-2021

Improvement Investment	\$8,195,238
Water Main Replaced	59,312 ft (11.2 miles)
Water Services Replaced	902
Water Main Removed	3,860 ft
Projects Completed	103
Sewer Main Extended	8,124 ft



## Washington State Law requires annual testing of backflow prevention devices

Drinking Water Systems can be contaminated through the lack of **Backflow Prevention**

### What is Backflow ?

Backflow is the unwanted flow of non-potable substances back into the consumer's plumbing system and/or public water system (i.e., drinking water).

Backflow can happen where a *cross connection* exists in a plumbing system where the potable water supply is connected to a non-potable source. A *cross connection* exists whenever the drinking water system is or could be connected to any non-potable source (plumbing fixture). Pollutants or contaminants can enter the safe drinking water system through uncontrolled cross connections when *backflow* occurs.

There are two types of *backflow*, *backsiphonage* and *backpressure*. *Backsiphonage* is caused by a negative pressure in the supply line to a facility or plumbing fixture. *Backsiphonage* may occur during waterline breaks, when repairs are made to the waterlines or when shutting off the water supply.

*Backpressure* can occur when the potable water supply is connected to another system operated at a higher pressure or has the ability to create pressure. Principal causes are booster pumps, pressure vessels and elevated plumbing.

*Backflow Prevention Assemblies* are mechanical devices designed to prevent backflow through cross connections. However, for backflow preventers to protect as designed, they must meet stringent installation requirements and *must be tested annually*.

### Lawn Irrigation Systems

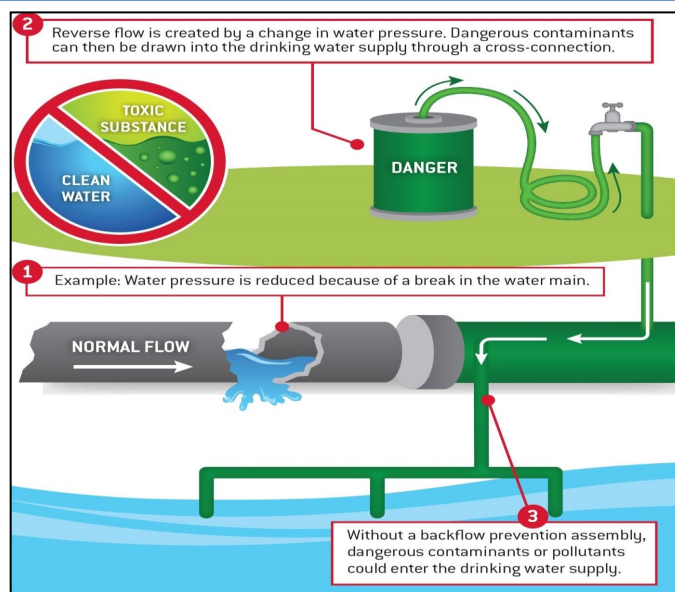


For the protection of the PUD

drinking water system, all irrigation systems must have an approved *backflow prevention assembly*.

Any irrigation system that contains pumps or injectors for the addition of chemicals and/or fertilizers is considered a high hazard. An approved *reduced pressure backflow assembly* (RPBA), or an approved air gap separation is required in all cases where chemicals or herbicides may be injected into the irrigation system, or where an auxiliary water supply is also provided for irrigation.

All irrigation systems that are not classified as a high health hazard are considered to be moderate health hazards. This risk assessment is based on the hazard posed by bacterial and chemical contaminants found on lawns. An approved *double check valve assembly* (DCVA) or *pressure vacuum breaker assembly* (PVBA) is required for this application.



We are THE source for your water service and water quality questions

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