

City of Corpus Christi Backflow Prevention / Cross Connection Control Program



James Pendleton- Inspector / Program Coordinator
Guadalupe Chavarria- Inspector
Lenora Herzer- Sr. Admin. Staff
Albert Landin- Customer Service Inspector



General Information

- The City of Corpus Christi began the Backflow Prevention Program in 1996 in conjunction with the Water Department, Building Inspections Department, now Development Services, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).
- Today our program tracks over 9,500 backflow prevention assemblies and is growing steadily.

Refineries

- One of the first areas of concern for the program was in getting the local refineries to install testable backflow prevention devices on the water lines going into their locations. We were very successful in gaining their cooperation in this process.



- The City of Corpus Christi established its program in 1996 to protect the public potable water system and is now tracking testable backflow prevention assemblies. We perform surveys to identify possible cross-connections and inspections for proper installation of backflow prevention assemblies.
- James Pendleton and Lupe Chavarria are both State licensed plumbing inspectors as well as State licensed backflow assembly testers. Lenora Herzer is a State Licensed backflow assembly tester.
- James Pendleton is also a State licensed irrigator.

Inspections

- Both Mr. Pendleton and Mr. Chavarria perform inspections on new installations of lawn irrigation systems as well as installations of backflow prevention assemblies in various residential and commercial settings. A backflow inspection is usually required before a Certificate of Occupancy can be issued. They also inspect removals of backflow prevention assemblies.
- Additionally, they perform inspections to locate any possible cross connections that may exist.

Investigations



What do we investigate?

- Conflicting information given to us on backflow assembly test reports
- Complaints from home or business owners
- Work being performed without the proper permits and / or licensing
- Water contamination complaints

Surveys

(Customer service inspections)

- Surveys are a preventative measure we use for locating possible cross connections. They are inspections of commercial facilities and residences to determine if their usage of potable water may combine it with a liquid, gas or solid substance in such a manner as to allow contaminants to enter into the potable water system. The City of Corpus Christi is required to perform surveys by TCEQ.

Some examples:

Refineries

Hospitals

Chemical Plants

Nail Salons

Restaurants

Convenience stores

Dental Offices

Lawn Irrigation systems

- We are in the process now of surveying businesses and neighborhoods for possible cross connections from lawn irrigation systems and other types of systems required to have backflow prevention devices installed.
- Since January 29, 2010 we have located over 1,000 possible cross connections. We are requiring the lawn irrigation systems and other systems in question be brought up to code and tested annually as required.

Certificates of Occupancy

- Our inspectors perform inspections of new commercial construction and change of usage of a facility and/or change of ownership. These inspections allow us to see how the water will be used and what backflow protection, if any, may be required.



Plan Review



- We review new commercial construction plans for backflow prevention requirements according to the nature of the business, fire sprinkler systems and land usage.

Notices

- As a part of the device tracking process, we print notices daily to be mailed a month in advance to the home owners and business owners whose backflow prevention devices are due for testing. Typically we print an average of sixty reminder notices per day.
- If the due date passes and we have not received a test report, a Violation notice is printed and mailed which informs the owner of the violation and the legal consequences involved with non-compliance. They are given an additional seven days to correct the violation.
- If the owner still is not in compliance after this time we create a file to be sent to the City's legal Department for prosecution in Municipal Court.

Protecting Our Drinking Water

Together we can keep our water clean and safe for all of our citizens.

