

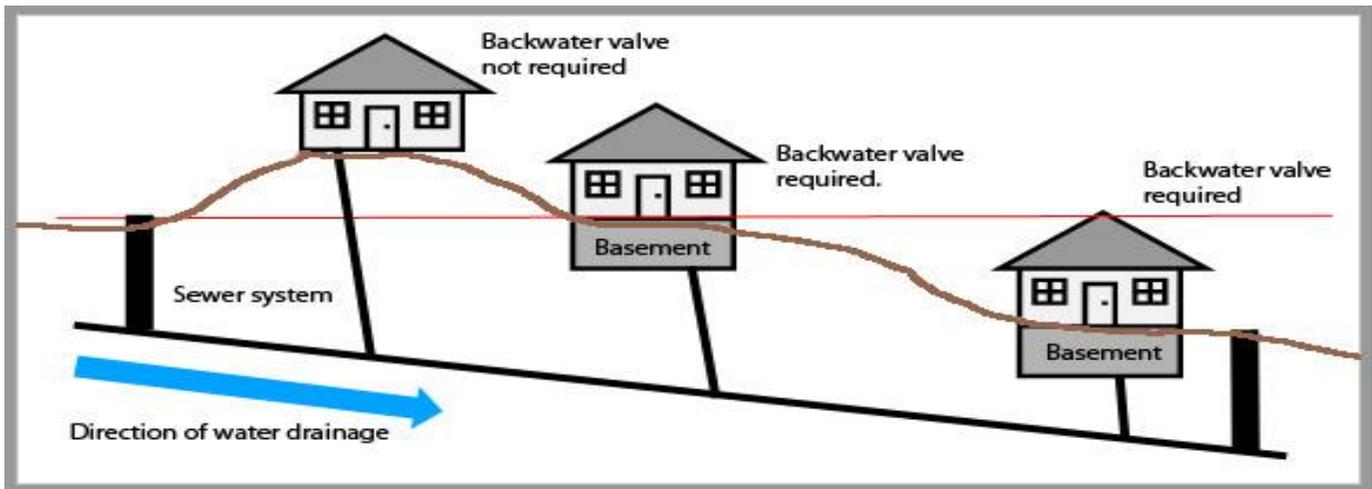


City of Santa Barbara
Building & Safety Division
Backwater Valve – Is One Required?

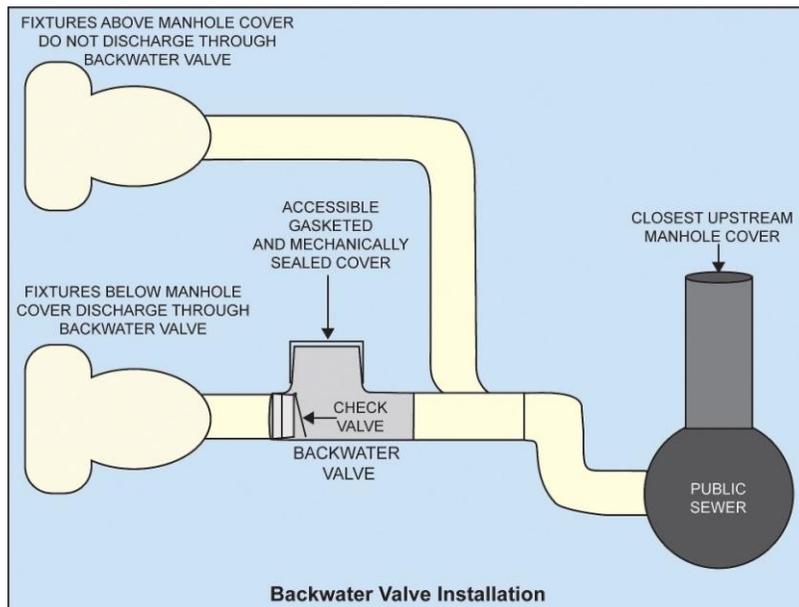
Community Development
630 Garden Street
805-564-5485

How can I tell if I need a Sewer Backwater Valve?

One simple way to tell if you are required to install a backwater valve is to consider your location in relation to the nearby sewer system that services your home and surrounding properties. Imagine there is a street on a gradual hill, there are three homes on this street and the sanitary sewer drain is located at the top of the hill. If the homes further down the hill are below the top of the sanitary sewer than there is a good chance that the sewer will backflow into those homes.



1. Install a Backwater Valve to protect fixtures whose flood rim level is below the closest upstream public sewer manhole cover.
2. Install the Backwater Valve in the building drain or in any branch drain that serves the fixtures requiring protection.
3. Do not discharge fixtures that have flood rim levels above the closest upstream manhole cover through the Backwater Valve.
4. Provide access to the Backwater Valve through a water tight cover.
5. Use only Backwater Valves constructed with parts that will not corrode and will provide a positive mechanical seal.
6. Install a Backwater Valve that has at least (\geq) the same capacity as the pipes served.



A Backwater Valve that meets the requirements of Section 710.1 of the California Plumbing Code is required to be installed per The City of Santa Barbara Municipal Code #5639 if any of the following occur:

- An addition, alteration or repair to a building with a valuation that exceeds \$1,000.
- Additions, alterations or repairs are made to a plumbing system or fixtures and a permit is required