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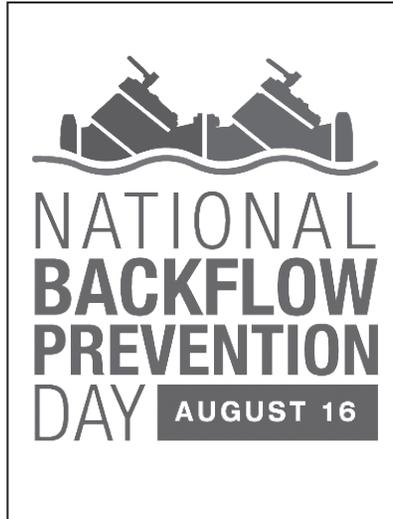


City of Santa Barbara
P.O. Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA
93102-1990

SantaBarbaraCA.gov

August 2021

BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLIES PROTECT YOUR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DRINKING WATER SYSTEMS



August 16, 2021 is the first National Backflow Prevention Day to celebrate the unsung heroes of backflow prevention assemblies (BPA) and Cross Connection Control Programs that protect water quality in the public and private drinking water systems. Backflow is the undesirable reversal of flow of water in a water system. Unintentional backflow conditions can be created through cross-connecting drinking water with contaminated water, like submerging a hose into a pool, or connecting a booster pump or chemical injection pumps onto the drinking water system. Common residential hazards include irrigation systems, pools,

decorative fountains, and fire lines. A properly functioning BPA installed at the water meter or at a specific piece of equipment prevents clean drinking water from being mixed with the contaminated water.

One of the first reported backflow incidents occurred on August 16, 1933 at the Chicago World's Fair. Due to poor plumbing codes and enforcement, Chicago's water and sewer systems were undersized. Two of the main hotels housing the fair guests had cross-connections that severely contaminated the water supply with amoebic dysentery. There were nearly 100 deaths and 700 documented cases that spread over 206 cities in the US as visitors traveled home and more than 1,000 additional cases in Chicago related to the two hotels. As a result of this incident, drinking water standards have been improved to protect water quality and public health.

Today our water quality is protected through federal and state drinking water regulation, plumbing codes, and best practices. Passed in 1974, the US Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Act is the principal federal law regulating safe drinking water for the public. Cross-Connection Control Programs (CCCP) are part of those requirements.

The City's CCCP monitors development projects and changes of use in commercial properties for potential hazards to the drinking water system, and requires the

installation of BPAs. In addition, the City's CCCP requires regular testing of BPAs and monitors if they are installed and functioning correctly. The program also monitors certified backflow assembly testers to make sure they are qualified to test and their equipment is functioning properly.

To learn more about the City's Cross Connection Control Program, or if a BPA is required for your property, visit SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Backflow or call (805) 564-5575.

Save the Date:

Santa Barbara's 22nd Annual Creek Week is September 18-25!



Creek Week is a celebration of our creeks, watersheds, and the ocean, with many local organizations hosting volunteer events, talks, tours, and much more!

Join us in helping build awareness and stewardship of the natural treasures of Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, and Goleta.

Learn more at SBCreekWeek.com or like us at Facebook.com/SBCreekWeek.

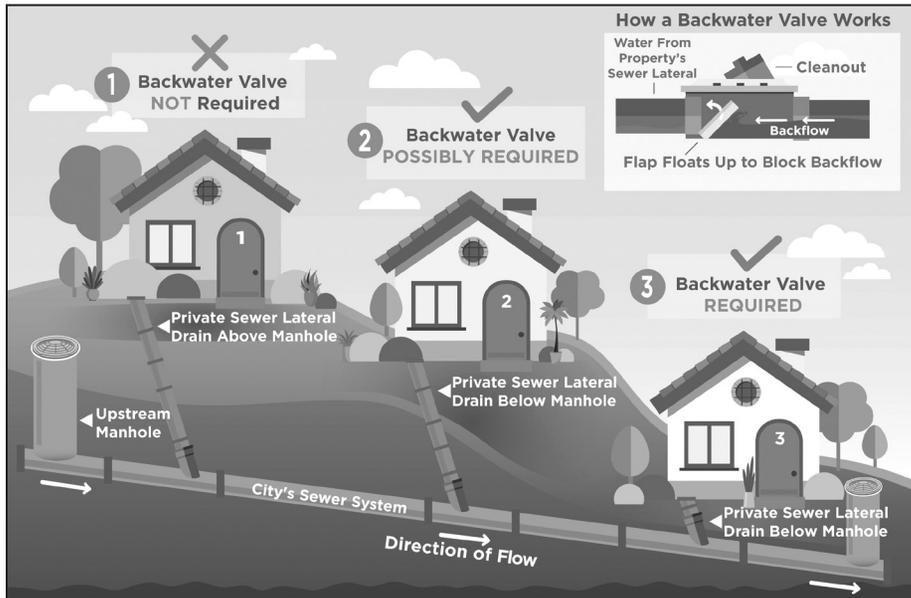


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BACKWATER VALVES CAN PREVENT SEWER BACKUPS



A backwater valve may prevent sewage backups from occurring on your property.

Sewer backups are not only unpleasant, but can result in costly damages. A backwater valve may prevent a sewer backup from occurring on your property. If your property has drainage fixtures located below the elevation of the next upstream manhole, you might be required by the California Plumbing Code to install and maintain an approved backwater valve.

To learn more about backwater valves, who needs one, and how to properly maintain them watch our video at SantaBarbaraCA.gov/BackwaterValve. In addition, the City of Santa Barbara Sewer Lateral Inspection Program (SLIP) staff is available to provide professional support to property owners installing a backwater valve, to schedule an appointment call (805) 568-1082 or email us at SLIP@SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

IS YOUR BUSINESS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THESE PLASTIC REGULATIONS?



Businesses can now face fines for violating plastics regulations.

This is a reminder that certain food and drink items are banned in the City of Santa Barbara. Due to COVID-19, Environmental Services code enforcement staff have not been citing businesses for being out of compliance with some ordinances. However, starting on August 1, 2021, City code enforcement will be citing businesses who have the items listed below. If your business is out of compliance with any of these items, you will need to replace them with alternatives:

PLASTIC STRAWS AND STIRRERS:

Plastic straws and stirrers, including those made of compostable plastic, are banned in the City of Santa Barbara for food and beverage vendors (this does not affect the retail sale of straws in bulk or straws included in prepackaged items. Other exemptions apply, see ordinance for details.) Banned July 2019.

STYROFOAM:

Styrofoam (expanded polystyrene) is banned in the City of Santa Barbara for food and beverage vendors AND retailers. This includes but is not limited to cups, bowls, plates, and coolers. (exemptions apply, see ordinance for details.) Banned January 2019.

PLASTIC BAGS:

Single-use plastic carryout bags are banned in the City of Santa Barbara, and a 10-cent charge is required for each paper bag provided to customers for food and beverage retailers (the 10-cent charge on paper bags may be retained by stores for use in complying with the ordinance. Exemptions apply, see ordinance for details.) Banned October 2013.

PLASTIC UTENSILS:

Plastic is not preferred, but if you choose to use plastic utensils they will need to be requested by the customer. On-Demand ordinance July 2019.

For full ordinance details, please visit our website at: SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Recycling

Our team is available to help you find alternatives to these banned items, and to answer any questions:

Hillary Allen (English): (805) 564-5627 or HAllen@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

Daniela Rosales (Español): (805) 564-5677 or DRosales@SantaBarbaraCA.gov