

Backflow prevention: protecting our water supply

What is backflow? Backflow is when water flows opposite to its normal or intended direction. Under normal conditions, water flows from the main water system into your property. When the flow of water is reversed, that is, from the pipes on the property back into the water system, it is referred to as backflow.

1.

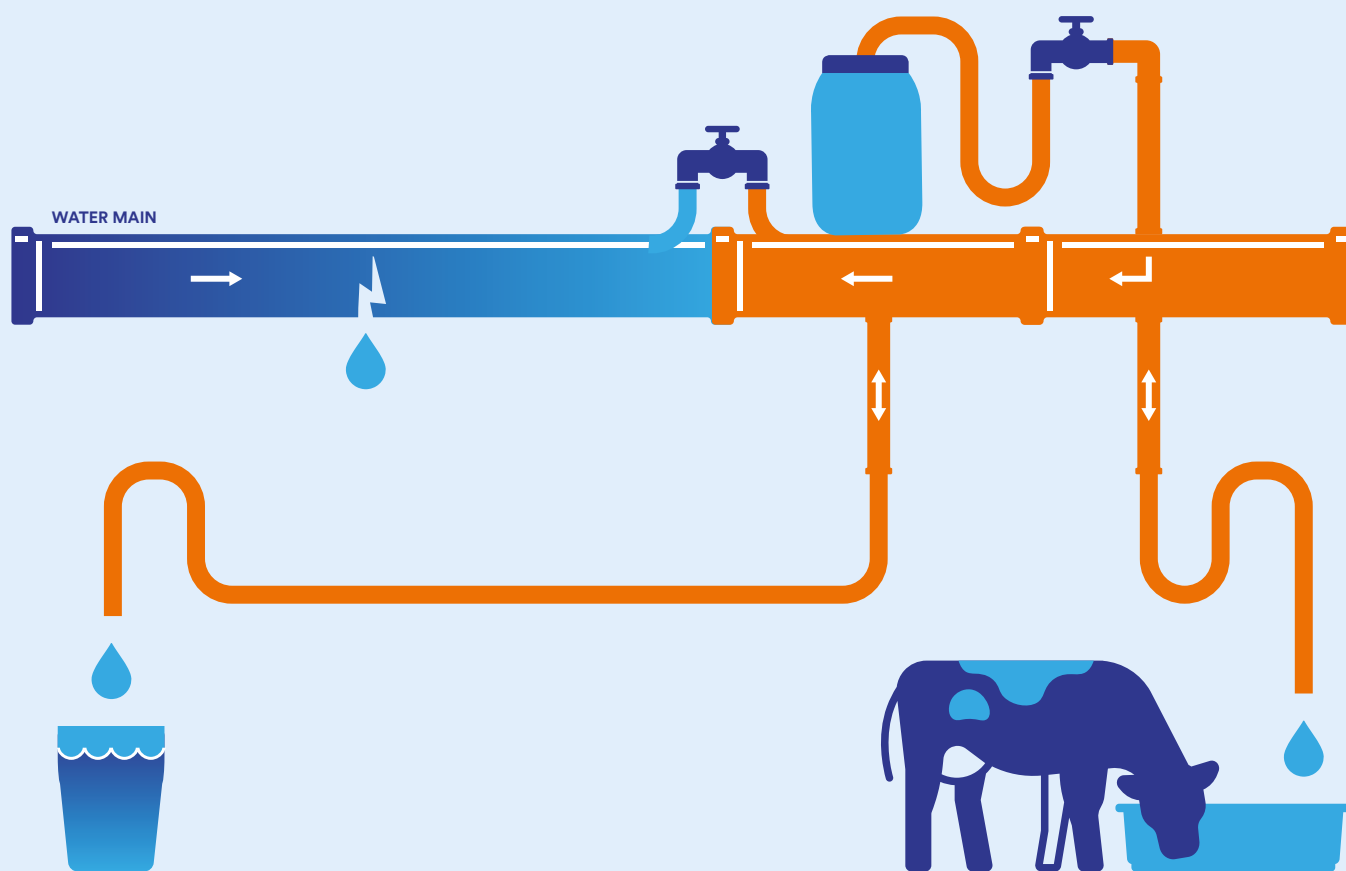
A break in the water main reduces water pressure

2.

Reverse pressure is created by the drop in water pressure

3.

Connection to a cattle trough, or a hose left in a tank or a bucket to mix chemicals can flow into the main, contaminating the water supply



How can backflow occur?

Backflow can occur when:

- There is a break in the water main which supplies your property
- Water is being pumped from the main water supply during a fire
- You are using water at a higher pressure than the pressure supplied by Westernport Water
- High water demand from the main water system reduces water pressure to your property
- Any form of interconnection

What does a backflow prevention device do?

Backflow can result in a public health risk if it allows contaminants to enter the drinking water supply from your property. A suitable backflow prevention device will allow water to enter the property through the water meter assembly, but will prevent the water from flowing back into the reticulated water supply network.

What is my responsibility as a property owner?

Westernport Water requires 'high risk' properties to have a backflow prevention device that meets the requirements of the Australian Standards for Plumbing and Drainage (AS/NZS 3500.1:2015) and Water Supply – Mechanical Backflow Prevention Devices (AS 2845.1:2010) and Westernport Water's Backflow Prevention Containment Guidelines.

The device must be installed by a plumber who is licensed by the Victorian Building Authority.

Costs associated with the installation, testing and maintenance of the backflow device are the responsibility of the property owner. Westernport Water can assist you with advice in this area.

Please note that the device must be commissioned and tested annually by an appropriately licensed backflow plumber.

To ensure the safety of the public drinking water network Westernport Water will be auditing and inspecting properties.



Backflow testing - Keeping our community safe.

What constitutes a high risk property?

A high risk property has hazards in any condition, device or practice that, in connection with the drinking water supply system, has the potential to cause death. Some examples of high hazards are drinking nipples and cattle troughs, irrigation systems, fertiliser injections for irrigation, direct connection to boilers and cooling towers, plant washing facilities and factories using toxic manufacturing chemicals.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on Westernport Water's Backflow Prevention Containment Guidelines and advice on prevention devices visit the [building, renovating and developing/water backflow](#) page on our website.

Contact Westernport Water's Engineering and Construction Team by email westport@westernportwater.com.au or call 1300 720 711