

Town reminds property owners about backflow prevention and cross connection control

Ridgway, CO – As a water purveyor, the Town of Ridgway is committed to protecting the water distribution system that supplies the Town’s drinking water. Compliance with testing of backflow prevention assemblies is an important step towards this protection.

The Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations provide the authority for local cross-connection control programs. These regulations mandate public water suppliers to require installation of containment assemblies on all service connections that pose a potential health hazard to the public drinking water system. Please note that not all services have a backflow prevention assembly. They are common on irrigation systems and boiler units.

A cross-connection is any connection between a potable (drinking) water supply system and any source of non-potable or non-drinkable liquid, solid, or gas. Under certain circumstances of unequal pressure, a non-drinkable substance could either be pulled or pushed into the drinking water supply. This is called backflow. Backflow can reverse the flow of water or other substances into the public or private water system, resulting in chemicals or contaminants getting into the drinking water. In other words, due to changes in pressure, the water can flow in the opposite direction from what is intended. This is why the installation, inspection and proper maintenance of backflow prevention assemblies and devices is imperative to the safety of your drinking water.

Property owners are responsible to have their existing backflow prevention devices inspected and tested every 12 months to ensure they are functioning properly. Test results must be reported to the Town. If you haven’t already had your backflow prevention assemblies and devices tested in 2023, please do so as soon as possible. Property owners play an integral part of protecting the water distribution system. The Town of Ridgway needs your assistance and values your cooperation in this endeavor.

For questions or more information contact Preston Neill, Town Manager, at 970-318-0081 or pneill@town.ridgway.co.us.

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