

PROTECTING OUR WATER

Your drinking water is delivered to your faucet through a public water system operated by the City of Fairborn. In order to protect our consumers, we are required to implement programs that prevent the pollution of our water supply. One of these programs is backflow prevention.

What is a Backflow Prevention Program?

This program is required by the State of Ohio to prevent possible sources of non-drinking water from entering the public drinking water system.

The normal direction of water flow is from our water main to your home. Backflow occurs when water from home plumbing systems is pulled backward into community drinking water due to a pressure loss in the utility main pipe or pushed back by a pressure source such as a well pump.



All homes have potential cross connections, which are actual or potential connections between a public water supply and a source of possible contamination. Some examples of cross connections include a hose connected to a chemical sprayer; a backyard pond filled with a submerged hose; and a private well. When backflow occurs, chemicals, poisons or bacteria can end up in the public water supply from these types of unprotected cross connections.

Water Wells

Some homes in Fairborn may have private water wells, excavations or structures created in the ground by digging, driving, boring, or drilling to access underground water.

Generally, an electric pump is used to withdraw the water and pump it to plumbing fixtures.

These wells may be old units installed prior to the home connecting to the public water system. Sometimes homeowners may not realize they are there or the well may have been installed specifically for irrigation purposes.

Why Does it Matter if Water Backflows?

Water Wells and Ohio Law



In either case, Ohio law prohibits the interconnection of these private wells with our public water system. While it is not prohibited to have a well, there are specific requirements that must be met in order to maintain a private well on a property serviced by a public water system.

The Regulations

The Ohio Administrative Code Section 3745-95-04 requires that a physical separation must be maintained between the well and the public water supply. An approved backflow prevention device must be installed at the cost of the owner at the service connection where a private well exists or the supplier of water may waive this requirement if the following conditions are met:

1. The consumer must sign an agreement that they will not create a connection between their well and the public system.
2. An annual inspection must be performed to confirm that no interconnection has occurred. This inspection is performed at the cost of the customer.
3. Consumers must be informed of the dangers of such cross connections.

What does this mean for well owners?

(see back)

With no way of knowing the quality of water in private wells, the city must take preventive measures to assure that it cannot enter our public system. The information provided in this pamphlet will help protect all of our citizens.

What Does this Mean for Well Owners?

Owners who wish to maintain their wells must either install the appropriate backflow device as specified by the Division of Water and Sewer or may request an evaluation to determine whether a waiver may be issued. If approved, they must then comply with the waiver requirements as outlined in the Ohio Administrative Code.

For owners who do not use their wells they may wish to abandon them. By doing so, they eliminate annual costs associated with either backflow device testing or annual well inspections. Abandonment must be performed in accordance to Ohio regulations and an abandonment permit filed with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources with a copy provided to the City.

WHY ARE WE CONCERNED ABOUT PRIVATE WELLS?

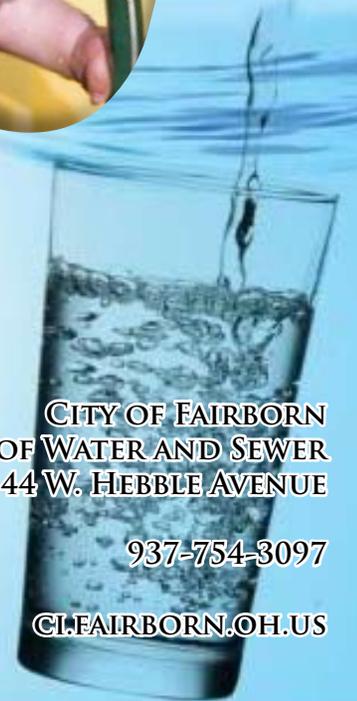
Providing safe drinking water to the residents of Fairborn is our highest priority. Regulated by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), we follow strict standards to ensure that the public drinking water supply remains safe.

Public water systems are required to test the water on a routine basis to make sure it is safe to drink. As part of the water treatment process, chlorine is added to disinfect the water and prevent the growth of bacteria. Additionally, wellhead protection practices are in place to prevent the source of our water from becoming contaminated.

The OEPA regulations that protect public drinking water systems do not apply to privately owned wells. Private wells may be installed in a manner that makes them vulnerable to contamination including shallow depths, improper sealing, or siting near potential contaminants. Owners may use unsafe practices such as use of lawn chemicals or pesticides near them.

Our customers also have a responsibility to help keep the public water supply safe. When a private well is located on your property, the possibility for contamination exists. Well owners must meet the requirements of OEPA and the City of Fairborn to protect our water.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION & YOUR WELL



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