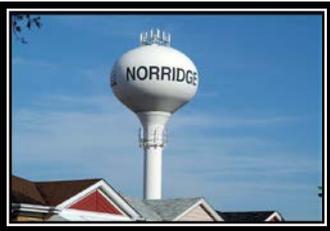


# Protect Your Water from Contamination By Providing Backflow Prevention



The Village of Norridge provides an average of 1.5 million gallons of purified water to our residents each day. This water is routinely tested to ensure it meets all

United States Environmental Protection Agency drinking water standards before it is pumped to your home or location. The water provided to Norridge water customers is of the highest possible quality.

In spite of our efforts, the Village of Norridge's drinking water supply can be placed at risk by contaminants that "backflow" into the system from your home or business.

## What is backflow?

Backflow occurs when water flows backwards through your water pipes. Backflow can occur when a drop in pressure occurs in the incoming water main or when pressure in the pipes inside your residential or commercial building becomes greater than the pressure in the water main. Three common reasons for a drop in water pressure are heavy water usage in the area, a water main break, and heavy consumption by firefighters. If your water pipes are connected to a source of pollution when backflow occurs, contaminants from that source can be siphoned into your drinking water, as well into the drinking water of the entire community.

To protect the Village of Norridge's drinking water supply from backflow - related health hazards, backflow prevention devices



RPZ backflow prevention device.

are required to be installed on all new homes and commercial buildings per the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois Plumbing Code and Norridge Municipal Code (Article III). Backflow prevention devices also should be installed on any existing property where the water system is either permanently or temporarily connected to a pollution source.

## What is considered a source of pollution?

Any direct connection of your home or business drinking water system to a source of pollution has the potential to create a health hazard if the backflow occurs during the connection. Examples of potential pollution sources include:

- Fire protection systems
- Lawn irrigation systems
- Gas station cleaning areas
- Restaurant food prep areas
- Hospital wastes
- Chemical processing and manufacturing operations
- Garden hose placed into a pet water bowl, fish tank, ornamental pond, or swimming pool, or connected to a plant fertilizer or bug spray canister



Consuming drinking water that has been accidentally mixed with chemicals or bacteria from any of these sources of contamination could cause serious illness.

Backflow prevention devices can help prevent contaminated water from being accidentally mixed with our drinking water.

*Continued on back*

Some backflow prevention devices require annual inspections.

It is your responsibility to help protect our drinking water supply from backflow contamination by ensuring your property is equipped with a working backflow prevention device.

Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ) backflow and double-check prevention devices must be inspected annually by a plumber certified by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to ensure they are operating properly. Once per year, the Village of Norridge sends a letter to all customers identified as having these types of backflow prevention devices to remind them when their inspections are due. If you have an RPZ or double-check backflow prevention device at your property but have not received an inspection reminder in the past year, please contact us so we can add you to our mailing list. Common vacuum breakers on most outside homes do not require annual inspections.

If your property's water system is ever connected to any source of pollution and you do not have a backflow prevention device, you need to have one installed immediately to protect the health and safety of your family, neighbors and employees. Backflow prevention devices can be installed by any licensed plumbing contractor. Please contact our Building Department at 708.453.0311 for permit information.

Our Village of Norridge Water Department is available to assist you. Contact us if you need any help in identifying the device, deciding what device is needed or any other backflow related issue. Useful information is available at [www.abpa.org](http://www.abpa.org) and [www.niabpa.org](http://www.niabpa.org).

*Working together we can protect our water supply.*

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# Protecting Against Backflow



Make sure your plumbing system is equipped with a backflow prevention device.

*A safe water supply is critical to protecting the public health.*