BACKFLOW PREVENTION

The Hiawatha Water Department works diligently to deliver safe and reliable drinking water to its customers. This effort begins with protecting our water supply sources and continues through the entire conveyance, treatment and distribution process until the water reaches your service line. The prevention of backflow into the public water supply is an integral part of ensuring safe drinking water.

The water distribution system is designed to allow water to travel in one direction from the treatment plant to the customer. Under certain conditions, water can flow in the opposite direction from the normal flow. This unwanted process is known as backflow. When this occurs, potentially harmful contaminants can mix with drinking water and threaten the safety of our potable water supply.

Essentially, backflow prevention devices are valves that prevent water from your home or business from going back into the City's water system in the event of a sudden loss of pressure in the distribution system. Irrigation systems are a high priority for backflow prevention programs because of the possibility of contamination from lawn chemicals, pet waste or other pollutants.

Hiawatha Water Department manages an active backflow and cross-connection prevention program. This program is required under state and local plumbing codes and is designed to prevent the possible contamination of the public water supply through backflow from customers’ facilities. Failure to maintain and test a required backflow prevention device could result in water being shut off for non-compliance. [**Click here to view the City of Hiawatha’s Cross Connection Control Program**](https://hiawatha-iowa.com/pdf/2023/water/Chapter-156-Plumbing-Code.docx)**.**

Hiawatha Water Department’s cross connection control program (backflow prevention) is managed by Backflow Solutions, Inc (BSI). Through the use of a web-based tracking program called [**BSI Online**](https://bsionline.com/), BSI provides a more efficient and cost-effective means of managing the city’s inventory of backflow prevention assemblies. You can learn more about backflow and how it affects our water system at the [**BSI Backflow Academy.**](https://backflow.com/backflow-academy/)

For questions regarding your backflow prevention device test, please contact BSI Online at [**support@backflow.com**](mailto:support@backflow.com), call 888-966-6050 or visit the customer portal at [**https://www.bsionlinetracking.com/customer**](https://www.bsionlinetracking.com/customer)**.** Customers will need their unique CCN number, found on your recertification letter, to get specific information about your backflow device.

The State of Iowa maintains a list of registered backflow assembly testers. This list can be obtained from the[**Iowa Department of Public Health – Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester Program.**](https://hhs.iowa.gov/regulatory-programs/backflow)Hiawatha Water Department employees cannot test backflow devices for customers.

