

## WHAT IS A BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY TESTER (BAT)?

A person who has shown competence to test and maintain backflow prevention assemblies and who is certified in accordance with Washington State. Also referred to as Certified or Licensed BAT. The City of Camas makes no representation regarding the abilities, performance, or quality of service of the testers listed below.

ANNUAL REMINDER NOTICES ARE SENT BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND TEST RESULTS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE CITY (WAC 246-290-490).

Submit test reports to  
[backflow@cityofcamas.us](mailto:backflow@cityofcamas.us)

## Learn more

Washington Administrative Code: Chapter 246-290  
Camas Municipal Code: Chapter 13.32

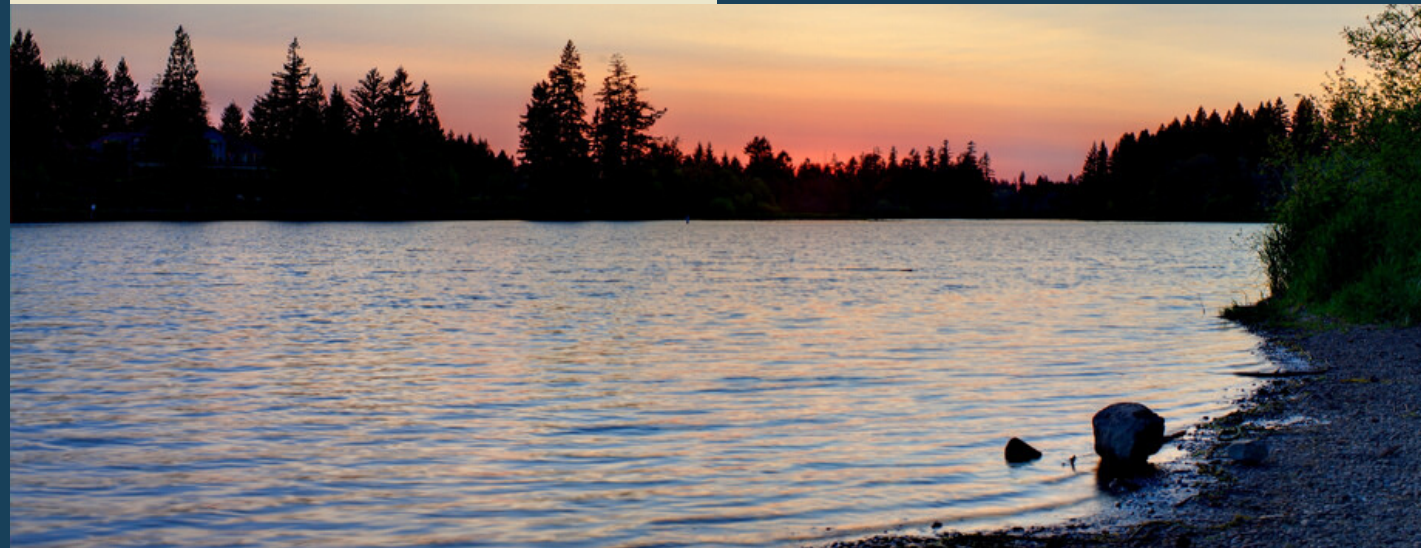
## BACKFLOW CONTACTS

1620 SE 8th Ave, Camas, WA 98607  
Tel: 360-817-1569

Email: [backflow@cityofcamas.us](mailto:backflow@cityofcamas.us)  
Website: [www.cityofcamas.us/pwwater](http://www.cityofcamas.us/pwwater)



## BACKFLOW & Cross Connection



## WHAT IS BACKFLOW?

Backflow may occur due to either "backsiphonage" or "backpressure", in which the flow of water reverses from the normal direction of flow in a piping system. When water or other substances flow in the opposite direction than intended, this allows contaminants to enter the public water system or consumer's plumbing causing a backflow incident.

## WHAT IS A BACKFLOW INCIDENT?

A backflow incident occurs anytime there is a water reversal in the drinking water supply (under backflow conditions) via unprotected cross connections. Backflow incidents may cause injury, illness, or death.

## WHAT IS CROSS CONNECTION?

A cross connection is any actual or potential physical connection between a "potable water" line and any pipe, vessel, or machine containing a non potable fluid, solid or gas, allowing possible entry to the water system by backflow. This would include, but is not limited to, sewers, drains, conduits, pools, storage reservoirs, plumbing fixtures, or any other device. The non-potable or unapproved water supply system may contain contaminated liquids, solids, or gases, of unknown or unsafe quality. Bypass arrangements such as jumper connections, removable sections, swivel or changeover devices are considered to be a cross connection.

## WHAT ARE BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLIES?

Backflow Prevention Assemblies are installed on water service lines (or at plumbing fixtures) to prevent backflow of contaminants into drinking water through cross connections. Improper installation or failure to meet testing requirements are grounds for termination of water service. The three basic approved types of assemblies that follow are required to be installed per City of Camas standards and must be tested by a Washington State Certified Backflow Assembly Tester upon installation and yearly thereafter.

## REDUCED PRESSURE BACKFLOW ASSEMBLIES (RPBA)

An RPBA is a mechanical backflow preventer that consists of two independently acting, spring-loaded check valves with a mechanically independent, hydraulically operated, spring-loaded pressure differential relief valve between the check valves and below the first check valve. This assembly is designed to protect against low to high health hazards.

## DOUBLE CHECK VALVE ASSEMBLIES (DCVA)

A DCVA is a mechanical backflow preventer that consists of two independently acting, spring-loaded check valves. This assembly should only be used to protect against low health hazards.

## PRESSURE VACUUM BREAKER ASSEMBLIES (PVBA)

A PVBA is a mechanical backflow preventer that consists of an independently acting, spring-loaded check valve and an independently acting, spring-loaded, air inlet valve on the discharge side of the check valve. This assembly is designed to protect against a low health hazards under backsiphonage only.

**WITHOUT PROPER BACKFLOW PROTECTION, YOUR IRRIGATION SYSTEM COULD ENDANGER THE HEALTH OF YOUR FAMILY, NEIGHBORS, AND OTHERS IN THE COMMUNITY WHO ARE USING THE PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM.**

NOTE: The Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker (AVB) is the only backflow prevention *device\** that does not require annual testing.

*\*Device refers to a backflow preventer that is generally not testable or repairable in line and does NOT meet the approval requirements of an assembly.*

An AVB should only be installed vertically with a minimum distance of six inches above the highest downstream piping. An atmospheric vacuum breaker is designed to protect against low health hazards under backsiphonage only.