

## **OCWA requires all Commercial Facilities, and Residential Facilities with 4 or more units, to Install Testable Back Flow Prevention (BFP) Devices**

**\*\*OCWA's decision process as to what type of device is required, includes, but is not limited to, the potential hazards defined below.**

### **Degree of Hazard of Potential Contaminant**

#### Hazardous

During the course of business, the facility may use, process or store contaminants that could be toxic or could affect human health if they were introduced into the public water supply (e.g. chemicals, dyes, acids, alkalis, detergents, bacterial cultures, blood & tissues waste, solvents, insecticides & herbicides, antifreezes, sewage, wastewater, etc.)

#### Aesthetically Objectionable

The facility does not use, process, or store contaminants that are considered toxic or affect human health, but may use, process or store contaminants that, if introduced into the public water supply, may affect the taste, temperature, odor, color and/or the aesthetic features of the public water supply. (e.g. office buildings, retail stores, commercial establishments utilizing public water for rest room and drinking fountains, private dwellings, etc.).

#### Non-Hazardous

No potential for cross connections or contaminants to come into contact with public water (e.g. use of a pollution-proof yard hydrant, no sloop sinks, no rest rooms, no chance of a cross connection, etc.).

**Potential for Cross Connection/Backflow Siphonage to Occur** (Wherever there is the potential for contamination of the public water supply, OCWA will require a testable backflow device at the point of water service connection)

#### High

Domestic water use within the facility is directly connected (hard tapped) into equipment that have no internal backflow devices that would prevent direct contact with potential contaminants (e.g. tanks with water inlets below the flood rim overflow, aspirators, lawn irrigation, chemical injecting/mixing equipment, etc.). The concept being that any occurrence of backflow (back pressure or back siphonage) would directly pull or push contaminants unimpeded back into the public water supply.

#### Moderate

Domestic water use within the facility is directly connected (hard tapped) into equipment that have internal backflow devices installed on them such as air gaps, vacuum breakers, check valves, built-in reduced pressure zone devices, (e.g. commercial dish washers, commercial garbage disposal, tanks with proper air gap on the inlet line, sprayers and aspirators with built-in vacuum breakers, HVAC make-up lines with RPZ/check valves installed on them, etc.). The concept being that any occurrence of backflow (back pressure or back siphonage) would be pulled or pushed back into the public water supply only if the internal backflow containment device on a piece of equipment (internal containment) fails first.

#### Minimal

Domestic water use within the facility is not directly connected (hard tapped) into equipment that may come into contact with potential contaminants (e.g. rest rooms, sloop sinks, drinking fountains, hose bibbs, etc.). The concept being that in any occurrence of backflow (back pressure or back siphonage), the internal plumbing would first have to be modified to create a cross connection (e.g. hose added to sloop sink outlet, garden hose attached to hose bibb, etc.) for contaminants to be pulled or pushed back into the public water supply.

**REGARDLESS OF THE ABOVE GUIDANCE, FINAL DETERMINATION OF BFP REQUIREMENTS IS DETERMINED BY OCWA AND IS FINAL.**