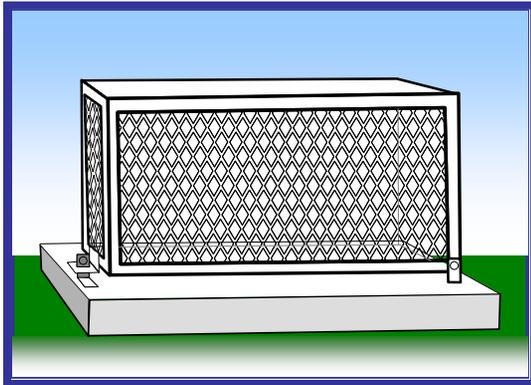


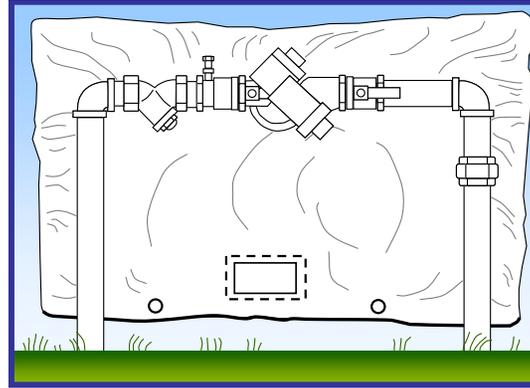
Guard Against Theft

What's the chance that your backflow prevention assembly will disappear into thin air? Assemblies are being stolen more often than ever due to the increasing prices of scrap brass and copper. When your assembly is stolen, not only do you lose the assembly and potentially have damage to your plumbing system, the water is often left on, creating damage and a large water bill.



Metal security cage

The most common way to protect your assembly is by placing it in a metal security cage (shown above) that is set on a concrete pad. There are also other types of locking devices available. Although none of these devices can ensure 100% protection against theft, they usually are effective deterrents to thieves.



Insulation bag

Don't Let Your Backflow Prevention Assembly Freeze

Every winter the temperatures dip below freezing. Inevitably, some backflow prevention assemblies freeze and are damaged. Don't let this happen. Freeze protection is easy and inexpensive.

A temporary solution is to wrap a blanket or a towel around the assembly on cold nights.

An insulation bag (shown above), a covered enclosure, or pipe insulation wrap can protect your assemblies.



If you require materials in accessible format or in a language other than English, call Tucson Water's Public Information Conservation Office at (520) 791-4331.

City of Tucson TDD#: (520)-791-2639

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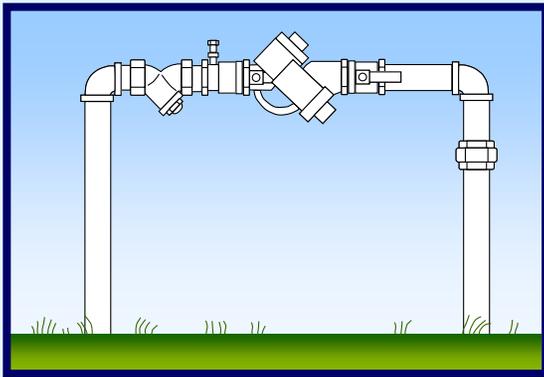
**WHAT YOU SHOULD
KNOW ABOUT...**



**BACKFLOW
PREVENTION**

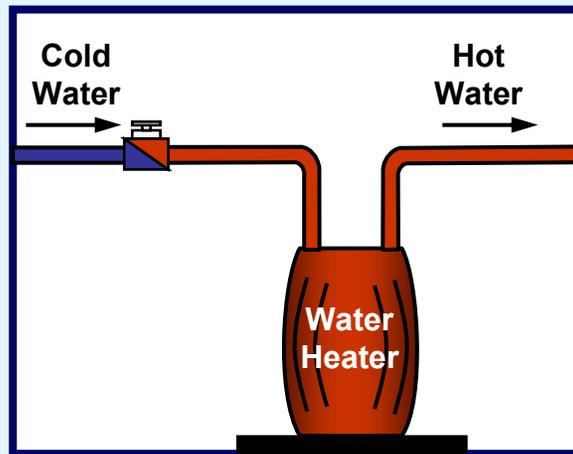
BACKFLOW PREVENTION

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) requires Tucson Water to have a backflow prevention program. This program is designed to protect the public water supply from pollutants and contaminants that could, under certain circumstances, be drawn into the Tucson Water system from private properties.



The reduced pressure assembly is the most commonly used backflow prevention assembly

Commercial and multi-family customers, as well as some single family customers, are required to install backflow prevention assemblies on all **potable** Tucson Water service connections. In the event that a non-potable water source on private property is interconnected with the potable supply from Tucson Water, the backflow prevention assembly prevents the non-potable water from being drawn into the public drinking water system.



Water heater may expand without a thermal expansion tank

Thermal Expansion

Owners and occupants of properties that have backflow prevention assemblies need to be aware that additional plumbing adjustments may be required to prevent thermal expansion damage. When a backflow prevention assembly is installed, a “closed” plumbing system is created.

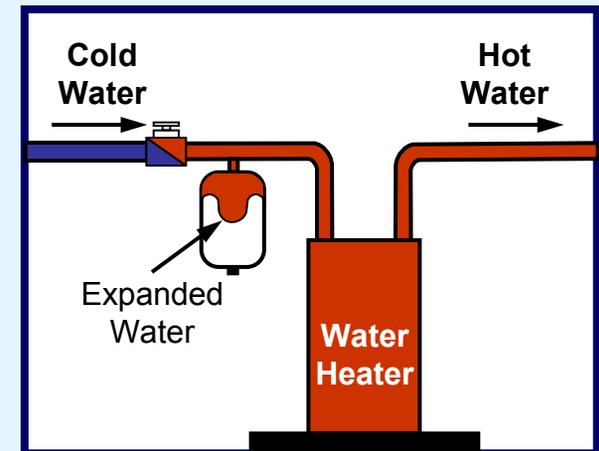
This means that any increased pressure caused by the expansion of heated water from the hot water tank or attic pipes heated by the sun has nowhere to escape.

Potable Water - Water that is safe for humans to drink

This can lead to serious consequences such as a ruptured or distorted hot water tank or a collapsed flue within the tank which can lead to the releases of toxic gases, such as carbon monoxide.

A small tank, called a thermal expansion tank, is usually installed near the hot water tank. The thermal expansion tank has a built-in bladder that absorbs any excess pressure and then gradually releases it back into the plumbing system. The Uniform Plumbing Code requires all plumbing systems that are classified as “closed” systems to install thermal expansion tanks.

To ensure that your home is safe, ask a qualified plumber about thermal expansion protection.



Water heater with a thermal expansion tank

Backflow prevention assemblies must be tested annually and kept in good working order. For more information about backflow protection go to www.tucsonaz.gov/water/backflow