



This is a Watts 007 double-check. This would be what most residential customers would require. If you have any questions, please call our office at 989-4214.

**Brewer Water  
Department  
P.O. Box 39  
Brewer, ME 04412**

# **BACKFLOW PREVENTION PROGRAM**



## **Water Department**

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Distribution Foreman  
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**ENSURING SAFE  
DRINKING WATER**

# BACKFLOW PREVENTION PROGRAM

## What is Backflow?

Water normally flows in one direction—going from the public water main in the street into the customer's plumbing. Under certain conditions, water can flow in the reverse direction. This is known as "backflow". Backflow can result because of:

- **Backsiphonage** which can occur during a significant change in pressure. For example, your hose is hooked to a chemical sprayer for fertilizing or weed treatment of your lawn. Down the street a fire hydrant is opened or there is a main break. The pressure in the main drops and water is siphoned from that container through the house's plumbing, and back into the public water supply.

- **Backpressure** may be created when a source of pressure (such as a pump) creates

a pressure greater than in the water main. For example, if a pump supplied a garden pond the pond water could be pumped back into the public water supply.

The Brewer Water Department backflow prevention program or cross-connection program derives its authority from 10-144A MRSA Chapter 226 as authorized by 22MRSA Chapter 601, Subchapter II ss 2612 (5) and from the State of Maine internal plumbing code.

## Potential Cross Connections problems in your home

Aspirator, weedicide and fertilizer sprayer, auxiliary system (unapproved well supply), boiler system, dishwasher, fountain (ornamental), swimming pool, bathtub, ice maker, lawn sprinkler and water closet, flush tank, ball cock. These are a few of the most common ones.

The Water Department started their Backflow Prevention Program by having commercial, industrial and governmental customers install backflows.

Your safety and the safety of others depends on ensuring that the quality of our water supply is never threatened.

## How can you do this?

- Check to see if you have a backflow.
- If you do not have one, we need you to have one installed by **April 30, 2011**.
- Once you have it installed, either you or the plumber needs to send us the paper work on the type of backflow.
- If you are unsure and would like help determining if you do or not, give us a call.
- If you already have one, just give us a call and let us know what type it is.

