

## When Will All This Affect Me?

New customers must decide which option they want when they sign up for service. If you select the first or second option, you will have 90 days after service is established to make changes to your auxiliary water system. If you select the third option, you must have the RPZ device installed for us to inspect before service can be turned on at your house.

Existing customers known or suspected of having wells or cisterns on their property will be contacted to arrange an initial site survey. If an auxiliary water system is found, you must select which option you want in order to comply with the regulations. You will then have 90 days to make the necessary changes.

## When Do I Need a Backflow Prevention Device?

If your household is cross connected to other sources of possible contamination, you will need to have a reduced pressure zone (RPZ) backflow prevention device installed on the Del-Co Water service line where it enters your house. Some examples are:

- Geothermal heating systems.
- Solar heating systems.
- Heat pump systems.
- Chemical-based fire sprinkler systems.
- Water-powered aspirator-type backup sump pumps.



## Additional Information

For more information please contact:

Del-Co Water Company, Inc.:  
(740) 548-7746  
www.delcowater.com

Ohio EPA Pamphlet:  
*Backflow Prevention and Cross  
Connection Control*  
*"Protecting Our Public Water Systems"*  
Division of Drinking and Ground Water  
122 South Front Street  
PO Box 1049  
Columbus, OH 43216-1049  
(614) 644-2752

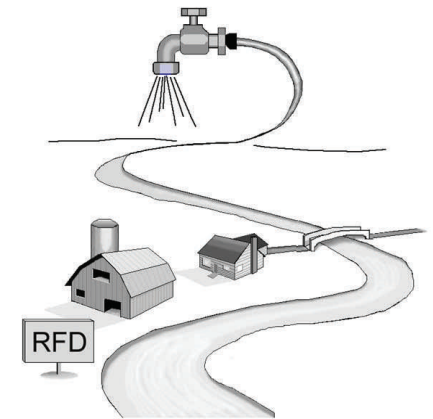
OAC §3745 (Ohio EPA Rules and Regulations):  
<http://www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/rules/asp>

ODNR Well Abandonment Regulations:  
[http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/water/pubs/fs\\_div/fctst05/tabid/4086/Default.aspx](http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/water/pubs/fs_div/fctst05/tabid/4086/Default.aspx)

# Del-Co Water Company, Inc.

## What You Need to Know if You Have a Well or Cistern

...a guide for residential customers



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# What is Backflow Prevention?

All of us have come to expect safe drinking water when we turn on our kitchen faucets. However, once water leaves the treatment plant it enters a massive piping distribution system with many customer connections. A *cross-connection* is a piping arrangement where contaminated water could backflow into the distribution system and affect other customers. Such arrangements include connections to wells and cisterns. To protect you from this, Del-Co Water established a Backflow Prevention Program several years ago.

## Backflow Regulations at a Glance

Backflow regulations for the state of Ohio are described in the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) §3745-95. Although the regulations are directed to individual home owners, Del-Co Water is impressed with the responsibility and authority to ensure they are followed everywhere we serve water. Del-Co Water's Backflow Prevention Program complies with OAC without adding any further requirements.

Born from the U.S. Safe Drinking Water Act of 1972, the backflow prevention regulations in Ohio received a major update in 2003. These updates significantly changed the rules as they apply to residential customers. Residents are required to either abate or control their auxiliary water system, such as a well or cistern. The rules now in effect are retroactive. Older homes that pre-exist the regulations are not "grandfathered" in, and must also meet the same conditions as new homes.



## What Are My Options?

If you are a prospective or existing Del-Co Water customer and have an auxiliary water system on your property, such as a well or cistern, you are required to do ***ONE*** of the following:

- ✓ ***Remove the auxiliary water system from your property.***  
Generally, this means making your well or cistern inoperable. If you have a cistern it must be disconnected from the house and crushed or filled in with soil. If you have a well it must be disconnected from the house by capping the line to the house below ground and properly abandoning the well. In order to properly abandon a well, the pump and piping must be removed and the well sealed by a licensed well driller. A sealing report is then sent to the Department of Health and they may perform an inspection. See the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' *Technical Guidance for Sealing Unused Wells* for these requirements. Del-Co Water will inspect the well to verify the line to the house has been severed and capped, and the pump and piping removed. There is no cost for this inspection.
- ✓ ***Relocate all components of the auxiliary water system outside your house.***  
With this option a well or cistern could still be used on your property as long as all of its components are completely removed from your house, including pumps, pressure tanks, piping and spigots. The buried line from the well to the house must be severed and redirected to other outside spigots not attached to your house. As required by Ohio EPA, Del-Co must also perform an annual inspection to ensure the separation stays compliant with the regulations. This requires scheduling an inspection when you are home and during normal business hours. An annual fee of \$25.00 is also assessed to customers who require annual inspections.
- ✓ ***Install a backflow prevention device on the Del-Co Water service line to your house.***  
To be in compliance with this option, a reduced pressure zone (RPZ) type backflow prevention device must be installed by a certified plumber where the Del-Co service line enters your house. In addition, your well or cistern must be physically disconnected from the Del-Co piping system in your house. Please be aware that RPZ devices may lower the pressure to your house by 8 to 12 PSI. Depending on your current pressure, you may consider the pressure drop to be unacceptable. After the initial inspection by Del-Co you are not required to have annual inspections; however, you are required to have the device tested by a certified plumber annually. Costs among plumbers vary and you must schedule this yourself. A list of plumbers approved for testing devices on our system is available on our web site.