

# Backflow Prevention Guide

## An Informative Guide from Dalton Utilities

### **What is Backflow?**

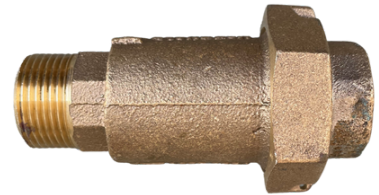
Backflow is when a drop in the incoming water pressure allows a reverse flow from a homeowner's plumbing system back into the public water system. For example, if you have a garden hose submerged to fill a bucket, Jacuzzi, fish tank, etc., and the water system suddenly loses pressure, the flow of water can be reversed, sucking any contaminants in the water backwards into the system.

### **Why is backflow prevention necessary?**

Backflow control is extremely important in public water systems as it is a matter of public health and safety. Many contamination issues in public water systems, including bacteria from sewage, are not due to the water source but are due to cross-connections. Therefore, it is very important that all customers are aware of the dangers and take necessary precautions.

### **EXAMPLES OF BACKFLOW SCENARIOS**

- A hose submerged in a swimming pool creates a pathway for pool water to enter the water supply plumbing.
- Fertilizers/pesticides or animal waste can be drawn into the water supply plumbing from a lawn irrigation system with submerged nozzles.
- Soapy water or other cleaning compounds could back siphon into your water supply plumbing through a faucet or hose submerged in a bucket, basin, or mop sink.



A Type of Backflow Prevention Device

Dalton Utilities works closely with the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to follow cross connection control requirements for water systems to continuously protect you and your family's health.

### **What Can You Do?**

- Maintain air gaps. Do not submerge hoses or place them where they could become submerged (create a gap of air between supply and container). The air gap should be a distance of twice the diameter of the outlet pipe.
- Do not create a connection between an auxiliary water system (well, cistern, body of water, puddles) and the water supply plumbing.

Questions? Contact our customer service by email: [resbackflow@dutil.com](mailto:resbackflow@dutil.com)

# Thermal Expansion Guide

To preserve the high quality water in our community Dalton Utilities is installing back flow devices at your water meter. The backflow device will prevent water that has passed through the water meter from returning to our distribution system. This will create a closed water piping system on the customer side of the meter.



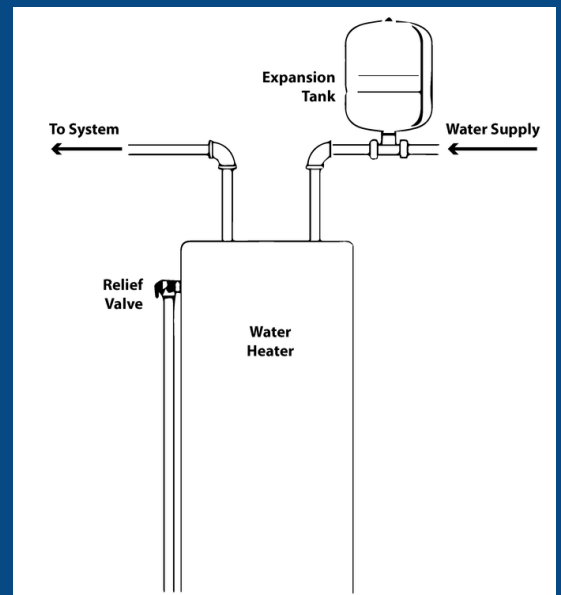
At our company, we are committed to being good stewards of water, the most valuable natural resource. One of the ways you can help us conserve water and maintain its quality is by using thermal expansion tanks. Dalton Utilities advises homeowners to install a thermal expansion tank at your water heater. The thermal expansion tank can be installed by a local plumber or you can purchase a do-it-yourself kit from hardware stores in your area.

**What is Thermal Expansion?** It is a term used to describe the tendency of water to expand when heated. Unlike air, which can be compressed, water expands in volume and requires extra space to accommodate for the change.

**Why is Thermal Expansion occurring?** Thermal expansion in a water heater can generate excessive pressure that surpasses the system's capacity. If left unaddressed, this pressure can lead to costly leaks and harm to the water heater, pipes, or other fixtures.

**When is a Thermal Expansion device necessary?** Thermal expansion is necessary in the following scenarios: A recent water meter replacement, The construction of a new home, A hot water heater replacement, When a backflow prevention device has been installed on the water meter or on the service line.

**How do I address the dilemma of Thermal Expansion?** If you're dealing with thermal expansion, the solution is simple. Install an expansion tank next to your water heater. This tank will prevent pressure from building up in the heating tank by accepting its overflow. Expansion tanks are not only cost-effective but also the most environmentally friendly solution available.



If you have questions concerning any of the information in this handout or would like to report a possible cross-connection or backflow situation, please contact Customer Service at 706-278-1313 or email [resbackflow@dutil.com](mailto:resbackflow@dutil.com)