OVERVIEW

WHAT IS BACKFLOW?

Backflow happens when water flows the wrong way through pipes. This can happen during a watermain break, firefighting, or a sudden change in water pressure. When this occurs, harmful substances can enter the drinking water system and potentially reach the taps in local homes and businesses.

HOW DOES THE CITY HELP PREVENT IT?

Following the Walkerton Inquiry, Ontario introduced stricter drinking water safety requirements. In response, the City of St. Thomas established its Backflow Prevention Program under By-law No. 44-2000.

The program helps protect the City's drinking water system from contamination and keeps our water safe and clean for everyone.

PROTECTING OUR DRINKING WATER

WHY BACKFLOW PREVENTIONS MATTERS?

In 1997, Guelph residents were told not to drink, cook, or bathe in tap water—even if boiled—after a lubricant spill contaminated the city's water supply.

A backflow prevention device helps stop this from happening by preventing chemicals and other harmful substances from flowing backward into the drinking water system. The right device can help protect our water and prevent contamination.

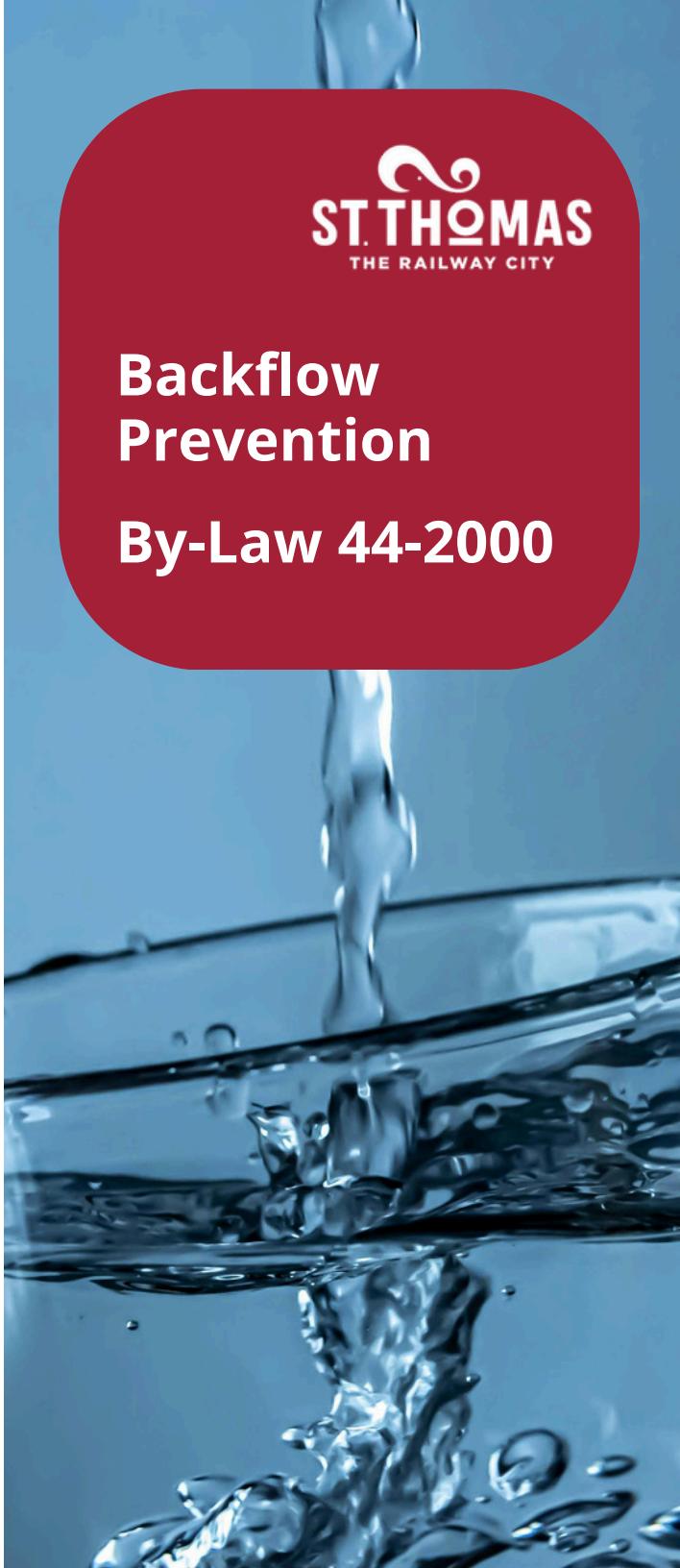
QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION?

(t) 519-631-1098 x 6222
clacroix@stthomas.ca

Mailing Address:
Environmental Services
PO Box 520
545 Talbot St.
St. Thomas, ON
N5P 3V7

Scan the QR code for more information about backflow prevention.

ST. THOMAS
THE RAILWAY CITY



Backflow Prevention PROTECTS YOUR DRINKING WATER

A backflow preventer keeps contaminated water from flowing back into the City's water system.



TYPES OF BACKFLOW PREVENTERS



Reduced Pressure Backflow Preventer (RP)
For high-risk facilities and hazardous materials.



Double Check Valve Assembly (DC)
For moderate-risk facilities.



Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker (AVB)
For low-risk and non-health hazard situations.

Keeps contaminated water out of the system.

Prevents contamination and protects public health.

Protects your business and community.

CANADIAN STANDARDS ASSOCIATION (CSA)

CSA Manual CAN/CSA-B64 guides the selection, installation, and testing of backflow prevention devices. Facilities are classified as severe, moderate, or minor risk.

CSA RISK CLASSIFICATIONS

SEVERE RISK

Facilities with substances that could endanger health if backflow contaminates drinking water.

Examples*:

- Agricultural facilities
- Industrial premises
- Automotive repair shops
- Dental offices and veterinary clinics
- Car washes and gas stations
- Hospitals and funeral homes
- Laundromats, dry cleaners, and printing plants

**Examples are not exhaustive; consult applicable CSA standards.*

MODERATE/MINOR RISK

Moderate-risk facilities may contain substances that pose a hazard. Minor-risk facilities present low risk., generally without a health hazard.

ONTARIO BUILDING CODE & BY-LAW NO. 44-2000

ONTARIO BUILDING CODE

New construction and plumbing changes must be assessed under applicable Code requirements and CSA standards to determine required backflow protection.

BY-LAW NO. 44-2000

Where contamination risk exists, the City may require an appropriate backflow prevention device and testing.

INSTALLATION & TESTING

Install devices immediately after each water meter and before the first branch connection, where applicable. Any required bypass must provide equal protection.

Devices must be tested at installation and annually by an accredited backflow prevention tester.

Use calibrated testing equipment and provide required proof of installation/ testing, contractor accreditation, and equipment calibration to the City.

COMPLIANCE & PENALTIES

Devices that fail annual testing remain non-compliant until the City receives confirmation they pass.

Tampering with or ignoring a faulty device may result in water service termination until a passing device is installed and tested.

Failure to comply with By-law No. 44-2000 may result in service termination and fines under the Provincial Offences Act.

Provincial charges may apply if an incident causes or permits a substance to enter the drinking water system and interfere with its operation.

PRESSURE CHANGES

A Reduced Pressure (RP) device may lower water pressure. A booster pump may be a possible solution.

REQUIRED INFORMATION FOR THE CITY

- Proof of successful installation and/or testing
- Proof of the contractor's backflow testing accreditation
- Proof of testing equipment calibration