



Dear City of Niles Water Customer with Backflow Prevention Device:

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) requires that the City of Niles implement a backflow prevention program in accordance with Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3745-95. The City of Niles has contracted with ms consultants, inc. of Youngstown to administer the City's 2019 Backflow Program in accordance with City Ordinance 921.07. All City water customers who have a backflow prevention device will be required to have their device inspected by a certified plumber in 2019 and on an annual basis moving forward. State of Ohio regulations place the responsibility on the water customer to properly maintain and ensure that cross-connections are not created and that backflow prevention devices are tested annually.

**What is Backflow?**

Backflow is flow through a cross-connection from a possible source of contamination that funnels back into the public drinking water system. Backflow occurs when a cross-connection is created causing a pressure reversal in the water supply piping creating backsiphonage.

**What is Cross-Connection?**

Cross-connection is any physical connection created between a possible source of contamination and any drinking water system piping.

**Why Should You Be Concerned?**

All cross-connections can pose a potential health risk should contaminated water enter your water supply plumbing due to backflow conditions. Properly functioning backflow prevention devices are designed to prevent this from occurring.

**Next Steps**

Throughout 2019, the City will send out notices to all water customers who have been identified to have a backflow device notifying them that an inspection is required. A specified due date will be provided in your notice. A list of certified backflow inspectors is provided on the City of Niles website ([www.thecityofniles.com](http://www.thecityofniles.com)). Failure to test your device by your specified due date may result in the City issuing a one-time fee of \$150 in accordance with City Ordinance 921.07 (h).

All device inspection reports should be sent to Lori Paull of ms consultants. Ms. Paull can be reached at [lpaul@msconsultants.com](mailto:lpaul@msconsultants.com) or 330-744-5321 should you have any questions. We appreciate your cooperation in making the 2019 Backflow Prevention Program a success.

Sincerely,

Andy Catanzarite  
Water Superintendent

Kevin Robertson  
Assistant Water Superintendent

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