



## ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

*A public, non-profit agency providing water, sewer and reclaimed water services to the Carrboro-Chapel Hill community.*

# BACKFLOW PREVENTION

Because of the potential for water in a private plumbing system to flow back into the public water system in some conditions, we require some locations and some equipment/facilities, such as irrigation systems and swimming pools, to have “backflow prevention” devices.

Backflows may occur when there is a decrease in pressure in one part of the public water system due to a water main leak, during firefighting operations drawing water from hydrant(s), etc.

Our backflow prevention program is designed to protect the public water supply from water that could become contaminated after it has passed through the OWASA system.



***LEFT: A “backflow prevention” device***

## BACKFLOW PREVENTION REQUIREMENTS

A backflow prevention device is required at a residence if there is an irrigation system or swimming pool.

The flow of water from a private system back into the public (OWASA) water system could occur under special conditions such as a major water main break or firefighting.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact us at (919) 968-4421 or [webmaster@owasa.org](mailto:webmaster@owasa.org), and/or visit our website, [www.owasa.org](http://www.owasa.org).

We have information including:

- the type of backflow prevention device that is needed,
- required initial testing of a new irrigation system and annual testing by a certified person,
- our list of certified testers, and
- required filing of the annual test report by a certified person.