CHARLOTTE COUNTY NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE

In order to comply with Florida Department of Environmental Protection regulations, Charlotte County is requesting information from its residential water customers in the form of a short survey. This begins the process by which Charlotte County will implement the Cross Connection and Backflow Prevention Program required by Florida Administrative Code 62-555.360(2).

What is backflow? Backflow is the movement of water in the opposite direction of normal flow. Backflow can be caused by a pressure drop in the utility supply line or by an increase in pressure from a pump or other device in use at the customer's home.

What is a cross connection? Cross connection is the connection of a drinking water pipe to any other pipe containing another water source, such as well or canal water. These auxiliary water sources (canals, lakes, or wells) are normally used for irrigation.

What if I don't have any cross connections in my home? If you've ever used a garden hose to apply a fertilizer or herbicide, fill a pool or hot tub, or use a pressure sprayer, you have created a potential cross connection. Garden hoses are the most frequent cause of cross connection in residential homes. Without appropriate backflow prevention in place, pressure changes could cause these substances to reverse their flow and be drawn through the garden hose into the public water supply.

Why should I be concerned about cross connection and backflow? Any situation that can cause the mixing of the safe drinking water and some other substance could make the drinking water unsafe to drink. No one would want to have their drinking water contaminated. Thus, it is essential to prevent backflow and maintain a system free from cross connections.

What can I do to help keep our drinking water safe? Purchase a simple vacuum breaker for your garden hose (available at any home improvement or hardware store) to prevent backflow in your home and assist Charlotte County Utilities by completing the brief survey below. You can return it along with your monthly utilities payment or fax to 941-627-4603.

Charlotte County Utilities Residential Customer Irrigation Survey

Name: _____ CCU Account Number: _____

Address: _____

1. Does your home have a swimming pool? ❑ Yes ❑ No
2. Do you have an irrigation system? ❑ Yes ❑ No
3. If yes, what is the water source? ❑ Pond ❑ Lake ❑ River ❑ Stream
   ❑ Canal ❑ Well
   ❑ Drinking Water (provided by CCU)
4. Is your irrigation system connected to more than one water source? ❑ Yes ❑ No

This survey was produced by Charlotte County Government.