



**The City of Niles, Ohio**  
2021  
Backflow Prevention Program

The City of Niles, Ohio  
34 West State Street  
Niles, OH 44446

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 administers a yearly Backflow Prevention Program, in accordance with Niles 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 2021 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 back-siphonage.

**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 2021 the City will send out notices to all water customers who have been identified to have a backflow containment device, notifying them that an inspection and testing of the device is required. A list of certified backflow inspectors are provided on the City of Niles website ([www.thecityofniles.com](http://www.thecityofniles.com)). Failure to test your device within 30 days may result in disconnection of water service until a test report is submitted.

All device inspection reports should be sent to Allison King, at [aking@thecityofniles.com](mailto:aking@thecityofniles.com) or 330-544-9000 ext.1101 should you have any questions. Backflow Test Forms can be found on the City website. We appreciate your cooperation in making the 2021 Backflow Prevention Program a success.

Sincerely,

Anthony Flarey - Director of Public Service