

# CITY OF CORNELIA

## COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS BACKFLOW REQUIREMENTS

All commercial Customers,

The City of Cornelia has the responsibility to provide safe and reliable drinking water and prevent water from unapproved sources or any contaminants from entering the public water system. Georgia's Environmental Protection Division (EPD), has required this in their cross connection rule (391-3-5-13). In 1996 the City of Cornelia adopted a Backflow and Cross-Connection Control Ordinance requiring all commercial customers to have and install, at a minimum a double check valve assembly on customer side of meter. These devices must be tested annually as stated in the City of Cornelia standard development specifications (VI-Backflow prevention).

The cross connections are the links through which it is possible for polluted or contaminated materials to enter the potable water system. This happens when pressure of the polluted source exceeds the pressure of the potable source, therefore causing backpressure or back-siphonage. A backflow device prevents these contaminants from entering into the potable water system. Under the City of Cornelia's approved backflow ordinance and specifications, all establishments are broken down into classifications as per the potential hazard.

Class 1 users consist of all fire service lines, which are designed and intended for suppression of fires.

Class 2 users are business that are considered high health hazard's due to the use or handling of hazardous, toxic and non – toxic substances. These businesses include hospitals, doctors and dentist offices, clinics, laboratories, laundries, etc.

Class 3 and 4 are all other commercial, industrial and institutional establishments.

Under the Standard development specifications, any class III establishments that does not have a proper backflow device installed, shall be required at the time of ownership be required to have this device installed prior to commencing operations. A certified Backflow tester must test all of these Backflow devices annually (March of each year) to make sure these devices are working properly.

Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

### **Who Is Responsible?**

**Cornelia Water** is responsible for protecting the public water supply from cross-connections and preventing backflow situations. If a hazard exists at a customer's water service connection, the customer will be required to install and maintain an appropriate backflow prevention device at the meter and/or at the source of the hazard.

**Customers** are responsible for protecting and maintaining their water supply plumbing from backflow that may contaminate drinking water. This includes complying with applicable plumbing code, not creating cross-connections, and having backflow prevention devices, when required, tested and certified yearly to be in good working order.

**Plumbers** are responsible for testing backflow prevention devices and submitting the results of these tests to Cornelia Water.

**QUESTIONS?**

Questions concerning backflow prevention and cross-connection control may be directed to 706-778-8585 Ext 224