

OFFICIAL NOTICE



Public Works Department Community Development Department

201 S. Cortez
P.O. Box 2059
Prescott AZ 86302
www.prescott-az.gov
Phone 928-777-1356
Fax 928-777-1258

December 3, 2010

Customer Name
Address
Prescott, AZ 863xx

Service Address:
Account #:

Dear Sewer Utility Customer:

This is a courtesy notice to inform you of the current adopted ordinances for sewer backwater valves. A Sewer Backwater Ordinance was adopted on December 9, 2008.

The adopted Ordinance includes the following titles:

CHAPTER 3-6: INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE SECTIONS

3-6-1: ADOPTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE

3-6-2: AMENDMENTS

3-6-3: PENALTY

The Ordinance contains significant amendments to Chapter **3-6-2**.

In support of this code, the city is requesting your attention and completion of either of the following:

- 1) Permit and install a sewer backwater valve per adopted code, **or**
- 2) Sign and complete a Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement

The educational support documents are provided to assist you in your understanding of this ordinance.

If you are uncertain of what steps to take, please consult with a licensed plumber to evaluate and, if necessary, install a backwater valve. Required tracking documents will include a plumbing permit and/or a Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement.

Additional administrative and educational information is available by request or on the city website at <http://www.prescott-az.gov/services/water/>

Please reference any of the following educational documents:

- o Resolution 3915-0921, adopted 12-9-2008
- o Ordinance 4679-0922, adopted 12-9-2008
- o City Code Chapter 3-6: International Plumbing Code
- o Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement
- o Examples of Backwater Valve

Respectfully,

Randy Pluimer
Chief Building Official
Community Development Department

Craig Dotseth
Sr. Utilities Operations & Infrastructure Analyst
Public Works Department



SEWER BACKWATER EDUCATION

Sewer Backwater Ordinance 4679-0922

adopted 12-09-2008, eff. 01-08-2009

(Ord. 4363, 12-16-2003, eff. 2-1-2004; Ord. 4606, 09-11-2007, eff. 10-15-2007; Ord. 4629, 10-23-2007; eff. 10-23-2007; Ord. 4679-0922, 12-09-2008, eff. 01-08-2009)

Ownership and responsibility for operation and maintenance of sewer service laterals and backwater valves rests with the property owner or lessee, not the City of Prescott.

Purpose

Past developments of real property have installed plumbing fixtures that are below the level of the next upstream manhole/flushing inlet on the public sewer, or even below the level of the sewer main itself. Rather than a sewer blockage causing a back-up in the sewer main and overflowing at this manhole/flushing inlet as the system was intended to provide, the back-up instead seeks the lower point at the private sewer drainage system.

These situations have led to needless damage to real property, needless expense to the public and needless increase in risk to public health.

All property owners should ensure that their property is properly protected from possible sewer back-ups by installing a backwater valve, removing unnecessary drainage fixtures and ensuring that their property insurance provides adequate coverage for such a possibility.

With few exceptions, the sewer system is gravity fed or managed by lift stations located in particular sections of town. Waste then flows to the Treatment Plant at 1505 Sundog Ranch Road or 2800 Melville Road.

Wastewater Collection

Wastewater Collections is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the city sewer collection system. The system requires cleaning of 370+ miles of mainline, 7,900+ manholes and 62 lift stations. System maintenance includes mainline cleaning, mainline repairs, manhole rehabilitation, lift station cleaning, pump replacement/repairs and response to customer service requests.

Wastewater Treatment

Wastewater collected by the City sewer system flows to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, where it undergoes a multi-faceted biological process to separate out the solids and treat the water for reuse and recharge. The treated water, called effluent, is sold for use in watering golf courses and construction to reduce potable water demand. The solids are used in land application and/or hauled off to a landfill.

The City maintains the sewer system within the City service areas boundaries. Back-ups found on this system should be reported to Wastewater Collection.

- **Wastewater Collection**
1505 Sundog Ranch Road
928-777-1630

- **Wastewater Treatment Plant**
1500 Sundog Ranch Road
928-777-1630

- **Water/Sewer Emergencies (After Hours)**
928-777-1626

<http://www.prescott-az.gov/services/water/>



MUNICIPAL CODE: CHAPTER 3-6:

Sewer Backwater Ordinance 4679-0922 adopted 12-09-2008, eff. 01-08-2009

The adoption of this ordinance confirms the city's authority to require the property owner to install backwater valves and relief devices and be responsible for the annual maintenance. Please evaluate your property to determine whether a backwater valve or relief device is required under the adopted Municipal Code.

SEWER BACKWATER VALVE – QUICK FACTS

- BACKWATER VALVE and A PLUMBING PERMIT ARE REQUIRED BY CITY CODE
- Backwater is the backflow of raw sewage from blockage in a sewer line that could result in flood damage to a residential, commercial or public property.
- Backwater flows can be prevented by properly installing and maintaining a backwater valve. Property owners are responsible for the permit, installation and annual maintenance of a backwater valve.
- A backwater valve is a simple and relatively inexpensive device that is installed inline on your private sewer service line. Consult with a licensed plumber for installation and maintenance.
- Backwater valves provide a physical barrier to prevent raw sewage from flowing back into your home or business and flooding living areas.
- Regular maintenance checks must be performed to ensure the proper operation of your backwater valve and are the responsibility of the occupant and or property owner.
- Install a backwater prevention valve on property sewer line to protect your private property. Install the backwater valve according to manufacturer's specifications.
- You should inform on-site plumbers that you have a backwater valve to avoid damaging the device. Damage to valve can allow raw sewage to backflow into your home or business.
- Review home or business property insurance policy to make certain you are insured against damage from sewage backflow.
- Professional evaluations are available by contacting a licensed plumbing contractor who is familiar with and will confirm the location, proper installation and maintenance of the sewer backwater device.

If you are interested in attending a seminar regarding the backwater valve, please contact the Public Works Department at (928) 777-1130.

Educational Links

Yavapai County Contractor's Association: www.ycca.org

Arizona Department of Water Resources: www.azwater.gov

Arizona Dept. of Environmental Quality: www.azdeq.gov

Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.gov

U of A Extension: www.extension.arizona.edu/yavapai

Irrigation Association: www.irrigation.org

Backflow Education: www.irrigationtutorials.com/backflow-preventers.htm

California Fats Oil & Grease: www.calfog.org

Sewer Smart: www.sewersmart.org

City of Prescott—Water and Sewer www.prescott-az.gov/services/water/protection.php

THE CITY IS NOT LIABLE FOR BACKWATER INCIDENTS

As a general matter, a person or entity including the City is not liable for unforeseen incidents unless that person or entity was negligent. Generally, in order to be negligent, one must do something wrong, commit a negligent act or not do something which they should have done.

As with all utilities, we cannot guarantee that our utility will be working at 100% capacity 100% of the time. The City cannot guarantee that mechanical parts will never break down or cease to function correctly. The City cannot control what goes into the sewer system, nor guarantee that there will never be a blockage in the main sewer line.

Because we cannot be guarantors that there will never be a blockage or a backup, we continue to urge all residents to be sure that existing homes be retrofit with a backwater prevention valve, and maintain the backwater valve at regular intervals, to alleviate potential problems.

City Code Section 3-6-2 - IPC Section 715.1