Fact sheet

GWMWater

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Certified to best practice standards
ISO 9001, 14001 and 45001

Standpipe induction

Every customer who accesses water from our standpipes has a responsibility to make sure they don't introduce contamination into the water supply system. Backflow prevention standards and policies must be applied and followed. We all need to protect public health and keep our community safe.

What can cause contamination?

- Introduction of any microorganisms that can cause illness ('pathogens' including bacteria, protozoan, virus, worms or fungi) into the water supply system.
- Introduction of any other contamination (chemicals, sewage, fuels etc.) into the water supply system.

Even a small amount of contaminant can cause large-scale illness. Just one pathogen can make someone sick.

Pathogens can come from:

- Untreated water contaminating treated water.
- Sewage water contaminating treated water.

How does backflow occur?

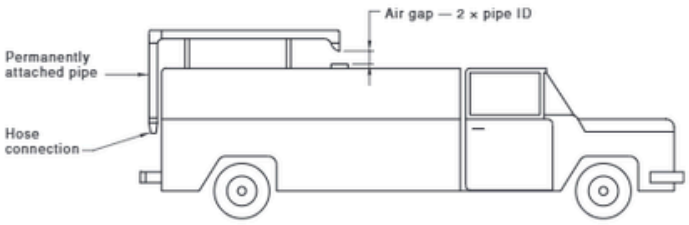
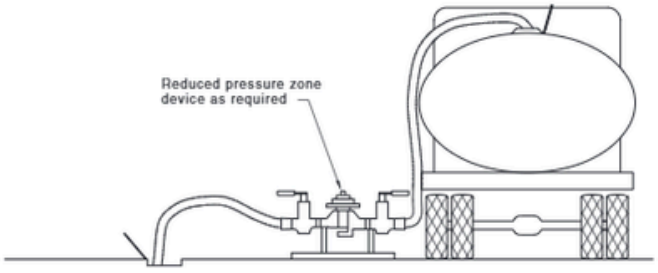
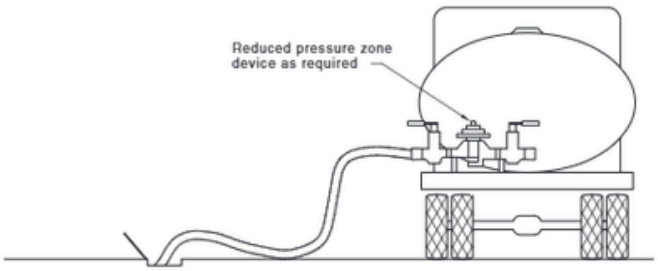
Backflow occurs when water flows back from the customer's equipment into our system. This can be as a result of having no backflow prevention. Loss of pressure in the supply pipe can also add to the risk of backflow occurring.

When the pressure drops, contaminated water can mix with fresh water in the mains, and when the system pressure returns, the contaminated water can unknowingly be distributed to other customers, which can create serious health risks to the community.



How to keep our community safe when using a standpipe

- Comply with regulations **AS-NZ33500.1- Section 4**, **Australian Drinking Water Guidelines** and GWMWater's **CMS/3087 Backflow Prevention Containment Policy.**
- Have a registered water cart under the *Food Act 1984*.
- Follow the 5 Cs as listed below.

CLEARANCE	Use an air gap for water trucks and make sure backflow prevention devices meet compliance requirements with **AS-NZ33500.1 Plumbing and Drainage – Section 4** and the **Australian Drinking Water Guidelines**. This is required under GWMWater's **CMS/3087 Backflow Prevention Containment Policy.**  (a) With air gap  (b) With portable assembly  (c) With truck-mounted assembly **Figure 4.6.3.1(A) — Typical minimum protection for filling tanker trucks**
CLEANLINESS	Make sure you have clean hands, as well as clean tools and equipment. You can lay tools down on a sheet of plastic and out of the mud, et cetera, to help keep them clean.
CLOTHING	Make sure your clothes are reasonably clean and free of contaminants.
CLEAN	Clean pipes and fittings before using and disinfect with chlorine solution.

Grampians
Wimmera
Mallee

CHLORINE

Chlorine kills pathogens. A 4% solution of sodium or calcium hypochlorite can be used to disinfect tools and equipment.

DO NOT USE stabilised chlorine as it contains added chemicals such as Isocyanuric acid.

Domestic grade PLAIN bleach may also be used (4% available chlorine).

Conduct a risk assessment prior to works and follow all directions given in the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for the chemical that you are using.

To clean water carting tanks:

- Chlorine degrades rapidly in water. A chlorine residual of 0.5 mg/L for 30 minutes will be sufficient to disinfect.
- To achieve this, add approximately 5 mg/L of chlorine to disinfect your tank following contamination, leaving for 30 minutes.
- The table below can be used as a guide.

Potable water carts should be used for potable water only. In emergency situations, GWMWater may allow carts that have been used for carting raw water (not including recycled or wastewater) that have been cleaned and sanitised appropriately.

	Amount of chlorine to add to achieve 5 mg/L in tank		
Volume of water in tank (litres)	4% liquid bleach (mL)	12.5% liquid sodium hypochlorite (mL)	65% granular or powdered calcium hypochlorite (teaspoon)
1000	125	40	2
2000	250	80	3
5000	625	200	6
6000	750	240	7
7500	938	300	9
10000	1250	400	12
16000	2000	640	19
20000	2500	800	24
30000	3750	1200	35

Incidents

When people are exposed to contaminants in the supply system, it will result in an incident response. This includes reporting to the relevant authority (Department of Health and/or EPA), sampling, flushing and a formal investigation into what caused the contamination. Actions are then put in place to prevent a similar incident occurring. Incidents are made publicly available through GWMWater's Annual Water Quality Report.

For more information, visit our website Backflow Prevention - GWMWater