



PROSSER *Washington*
INCORPORATED 1899

Backwater Valves



City of Prosser

Building Department

601 7th Street, Prosser, WA 99350

Phone: (509) 786-2332

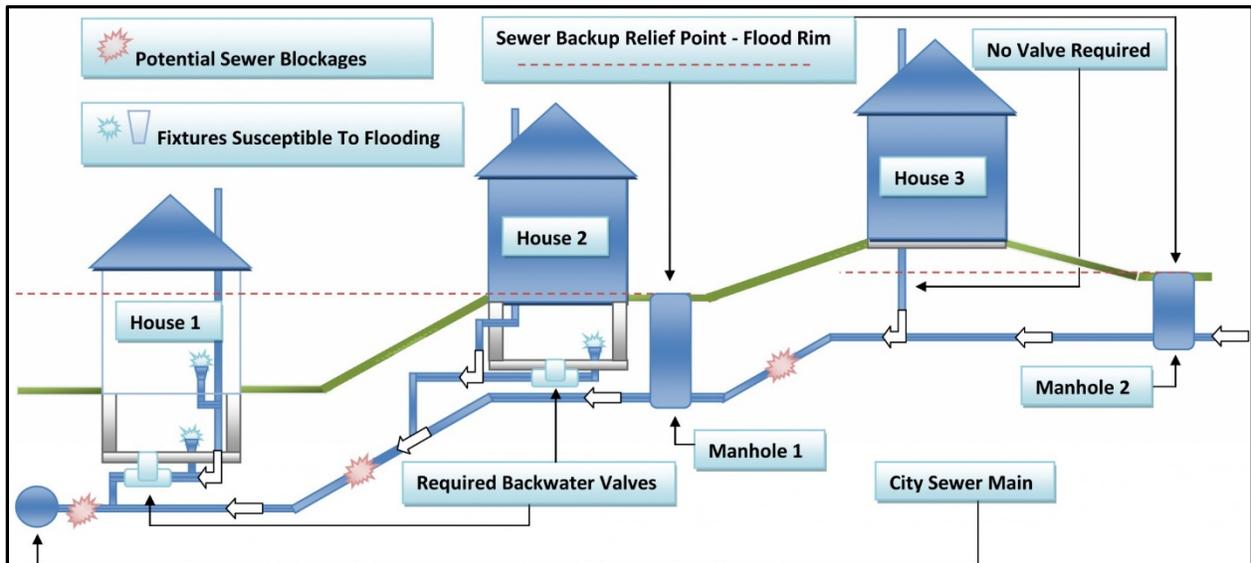
Introduction

Homeowners may decide they want to add an extra bathroom in their basement or maybe they are simply replacing their old sanitary sewer lines, in any case, this may be the time to consider installing a backwater valve to protect your basement from sewer backup.

The City of Prosser requires building owners to install a backwater valve when an alteration is made to their plumbing system and if there is a potential for sewer backup. This is something every homeowner should know before it is too late.

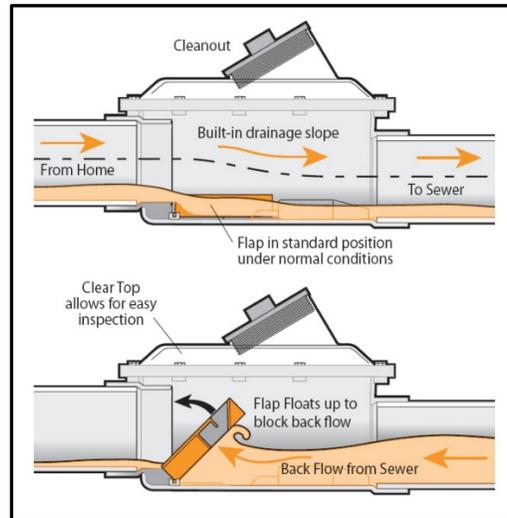
When is a Backwater Valve Needed

Section 710.1 of the 2015 Uniform Plumbing Code states that fixtures installed on a floor level that is lower than the next upstream manhole cover of the public or private sewer shall be protected from backflow of sewage by installing an approved type of backwater valve (BWV). Often times a basement is required to have a BWV due to the differences in elevation relative to the manhole. This section also states that fixtures on floor levels not below the next upstream manhole are not required to be protected with a BWV, and aren't allowed to discharge through the BWV.



How it Works

BWVs are a simple design in the sense that they allow passage of waste in only one direction. In the event of a sewage backup downstream the BWV has a flapper that will close and seal shut, protecting the fixtures and the home from having a sewage backup.



Installation of a Backwater Valve

There are several locations where BWVs are typically installed, some owners place them just outside of the foundation wall where the sewer service line exits the house, and some install them inside the house in a basement slab. The important part is making sure that it protects the vulnerable fixtures within the residence.

