

**PUBLIC**



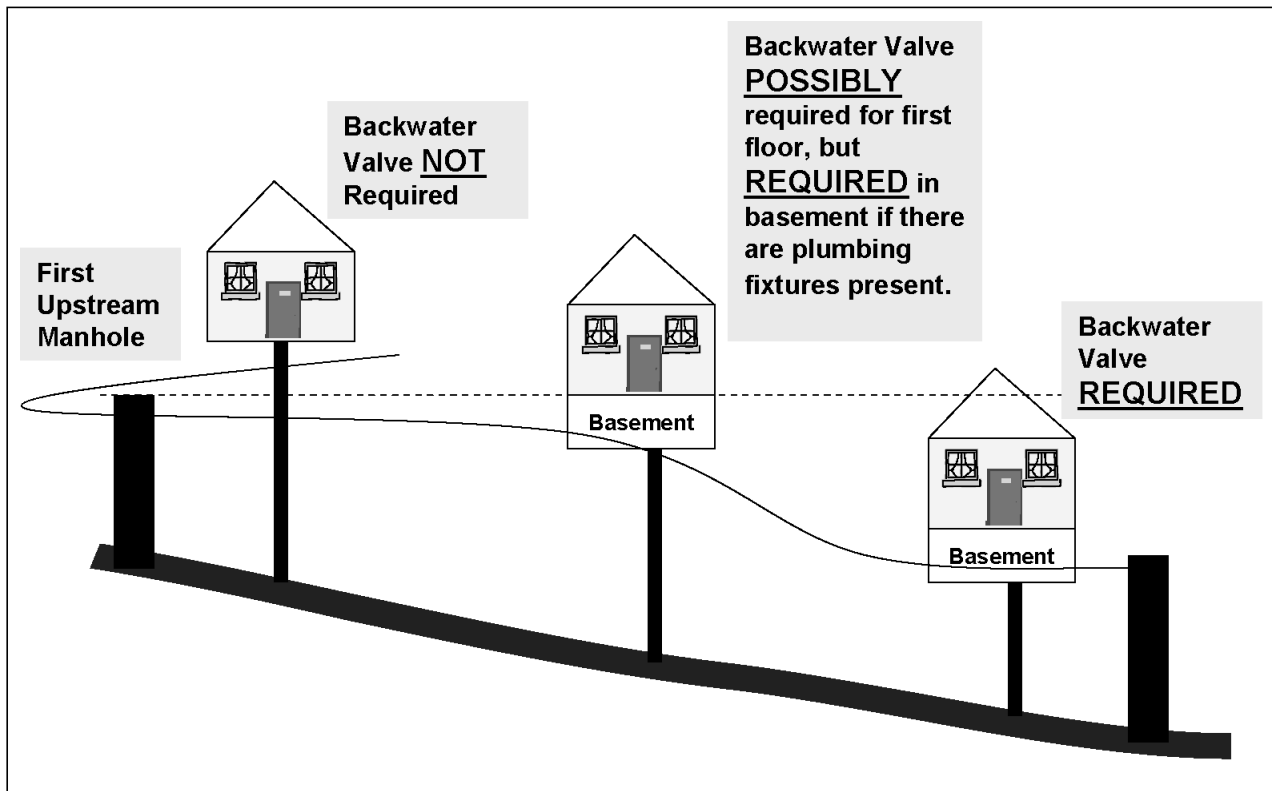
**NOTICE**

## **Backwater valve will prevent sewer backups**

Do you have a backwater valve installed in your home or business? Since 1958, the N.C. Plumbing Code has required that a backwater valve be installed in all structures if they have a plumbing fixture that has a "flood rim elevation" below the next upstream city sewer manhole.

Residents can avoid sewer backups by installing this backwater valve, which is designed to prevent a sewer backup in the customer's plumbing. The valve allows sewage to leave the residence or business, but does not allow sewage to flow back into the property. The flood rim elevation is the level at which a fixture, such as a toilet or sink, will overflow.

The city is not responsible for damages caused by a sewer backup on private property if a backwater valve has not been installed.



Although the valve has been required for a long time by the N.C. Plumbing Code, it is possible that some local homes or businesses that have fixtures with flood rim elevations below the next upstream sewer manhole may not have the backwater valve installed. Even structures built prior to 1958 should

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have a backwater valve installed under these circumstances. Any structure with plumbing fixtures below the next upstream sewer manhole is at risk of sewage backing up into the structure. Structures with plumbing fixtures in basements are more likely to need the valve installed.

If a sewer line becomes clogged, the contents could backup into a structure; therefore, having the backwater valve installed will eliminate this problem. While the city has no liability for these backups, citizens need to be aware that the installation of this valve can help them prevent costly damages to their property.

Property owners are encouraged to have a licensed plumbing contractor to inspect their home to determine if a backwater valve is needed.

For more information, contact the City of Newton Public Works & Utilities Department at 695-4298.