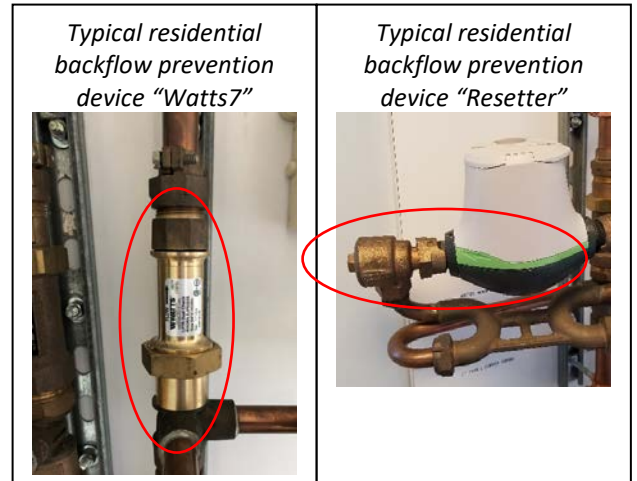


Backflow Prevention, Water Meter Installation, and Thermal Expansion For Residential Water Customers

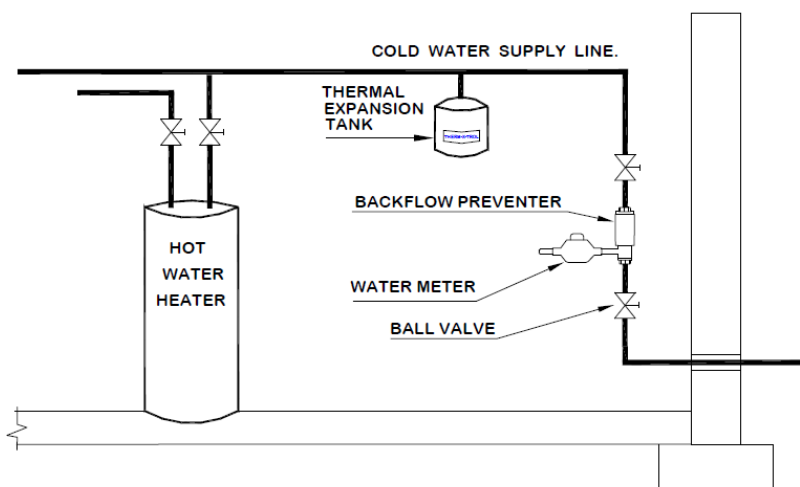
Backflow Prevention & Meter Installation

The Kennebec Water District requires all customers to install an appropriate backflow prevention device, a whole part dual check backflow preventer with no ports or reliefs at a minimum. This important device prevents water from flowing backwards from a customer's premises plumbing back into the water system, reducing the possibility of introducing contamination into the public water system. A backflow prevention device is a one-way valve that prevents a reversal of water flow in the pipe. Installation specifications can be found under the Resources tab on our website, www.kennebecwater.org.



Thermal Expansion Control

The Kennebec Water District encourages you to consider thermal expansion in your plumbing. Water expands when heated. This is referred to as *thermal expansion*. If there is no outlet (a closed system) for this expanded water, the water pressure will increase. The installation of a backflow prevention device creates this kind of closed system, which is necessary for preventing water from being forced back into (and potentially contaminating) the public distribution network, but it should also be managed with a thermal expansion tank. The Maine Internal Plumbing Code requires that thermal expansion be addressed in plumbing systems. If not controlled, thermal expansion may damage or reduce the life of plumbing fixtures and



appliances. Thermal expansion may be evident by dripping or spurting from water faucets or intermittent discharge from the pressure relief valve on the hot water heater. Thermal Expansion can easily be controlled by use of a properly sized thermal expansion tank installed on the cold-water supply line. You are encouraged to have a licensed plumber inspect your plumbing system to determine if thermal expansion is a concern and what steps you should take.