



# Henry County Water & Sewerage Authority

1695 Highway 20 West, McDonough, GA 30253

January 9, 2006

RE: Homes built in 2001 or prior

Dear Valued Customer:

The Henry County Water & Sewerage Authority is in the process of upgrading existing operations to continue to provide the safest and highest quality water service possible. To continue to ensure this quality of service, the Authority will begin a multi-year program to install backflow prevention devices throughout the county at each meter that doesn't already have one (most are residences built in 2001 and prior). Such a device is needed because as a customer's hot water heater warms, the water expands, potentially forcing it back into the public water system. The installation of the backflow preventer is mandated by Georgia's Environmental Protection Division (EPD).

However, a backflow prevention device also seals water off inside your home. This could create higher pressure on your existing plumbing system (both on the hot water and cold water side). For some homeowners, such a spike in pressure could set off the relief valve on hot water heaters or cause other damage to the plumbing and/or the house.

As a result of a change in the plumbing code in 2001, all newly constructed homes since that time are required to have a thermal expansion device installed on or within the plumbing system. Homes built prior to 2001 may not have such thermal expansion capabilities inside the house. You should consult a qualified plumber if you have any doubts about your plumbing's condition. However, should you, the homeowner, choose not to install a thermal expansion device after this notification, HCWSA will not be responsible for any plumbing problems that may arise.

To inform you of when the new backflow prevention device will be installed on your water meter, the Authority will leave a colored door hanger at your home at least two weeks before work begins in your immediate area.

The Authority asks your patience and cooperation during this period of upgrades and construction. Further information may be obtained from our website [www.HCWSA.com](http://www.HCWSA.com). Should you have any questions regarding this project, please direct all inquiries to (678) 583-4555 or e-mail us at [Backflow@HCWSA.com](mailto:Backflow@HCWSA.com)

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