

Did you know...

Your water can become contaminated if connections to your plumbing system are not properly protected? The purpose of the local Cross Connection Program, as required by State Plumbing Code and Regulations, is to ensure everyone in the community has safe, clean drinking water.

It's Public Safety

To avoid contamination, backflow preventers are required by state plumbing codes wherever there is an actual or potential hazard for a cross connection. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requires all public water suppliers to maintain an on-going Cross Connection Control Program involving public education, onsite inspections, and possible corrective actions by building owners.

What's in it for you?

The Cross Connection and Backflow Prevention Program is necessary for the protection of the water that you, other City of Altoona residents, and businesses use and consume. By working together, we can make our water supply safer by installing, or having installed, simple devices that will prevent impurities from entering our drinking water.

Actions you can take prior to your inspection:

- Read and understand this brochure
- Review each of the diagrams and review your bathroom and kitchen set-up to ensure you are protected.
- Call a plumber with questions on back flow prevention for boiler or plumbing fixtures and appliances.
- Inspect hose connections on your house for proper back flow prevention. (ex. outside hose faucet and utility sinks)

Over half of the nation's cross connections are from unprotected garden hoses!

ALTOONA WATER UTILITY'S CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

The Law

Pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, the DNR, under NR 810.15, requires every municipal water supplier to develop and implement a comprehensive cross-connection control program for the elimination of all existing cross-connections as well as the prevention of future cross-connections.

What Will Be Required?

The Altoona Water Utility's Cross Connection Control (CCC) Program is designed to safeguard public health. Inspections for residential properties began in the fall of 2012. Every residential property will be inspected once every 10 years in coordination with our meter exchange program, and we ask for your cooperation in scheduling an appointment when you receive your scheduling notice.

Most appointments will take approximately 15 minutes. At the end of the inspection, if the property is found to be compliant, a Compliance Tag will be attached to the meter. If violations were found and the property is noncompliant, the property owner, or their representative, will be provided a report indicating what steps need to be taken to bring the property into compliance. This may include the need for a property owner to purchase, from a home improvement store or the City, and install backflow prevention devices.

You will then be notified when a follow-up appointment needs to be scheduled, which should be completed within two months of the initial inspection. The follow-up appointment is to ensure that all required backflow prevention devices are correctly installed.

WI Dept. Safety & Professional & Professional Services:
www.dsps.wi.gov/sb/

WI Dept. of Natural Resources:
www.dnr.wi.gov

Environmental Protection Agency:
www.epa.gov

WI Cross Connection Control Resources:
www.hydrodesignsinc.com/wicc.html



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PUBLIC AWARENESS:

CROSS CONNECTION

Bathrooms & Kitchens

In 2010, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources amended the mandated Cross Connection Control Program requirements, limiting the inspection of residential properties to the area around the water meter, which is typically in the basement. In not requiring an inspection of every tap or end-use device in the home, the inspection is less intrusive on the homeowner. In lieu of a more thorough inspection, the Water Utility must provide educational materials to property owners a minimum of every three years regarding safeguarding their homes from cross-connections. This brochure on Bathrooms and Kitchens provides details on proper backflow prevention in these areas of your home.

What is a Cross Connection?

A cross connection is an actual or potential connection between the safe drinking water (potable) supply and source of contamination or pollution. State plumbing codes require approved backflow prevention devices, assemblies, or the methods to be installed at every point of potable water connection and use. Cross Connections must be properly protected or eliminated.

How does contamination occur?

When you turn on a faucet, you expect the water to be as safe as when it left the water reservoir. However, certain hydraulic conditions left unprotected within your plumbing system may allow hazardous substances to enter and contaminate the drinking water in your home, or even the public water supply.

Water normally flows in one direction to your faucet; however, under certain conditions, water can actually flow backwards (i.e. Backflow). There are two situations that can cause Backflow: backsiphonage and backpressure.

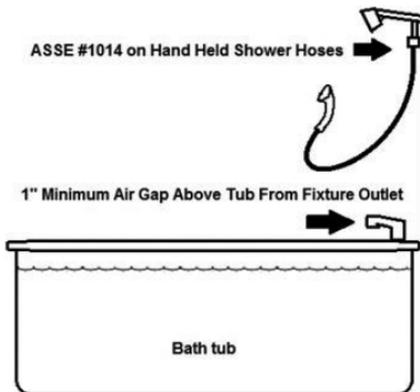
Backsiphonage: May occur due to a loss of pressure in the municipal water supply, such as from a water main break, creating a siphon in your plumbing system which can draw water back into the system.

Backpressure: May occur when a source of pressure (such as a boiler) creates a greater pressure than the incoming water pressure. This may cause contaminated water to be pushed into your plumbing system through an unprotected cross-connection.

In the Bathroom – Hand Held Shower

The hand held shower fixture is compliant if:

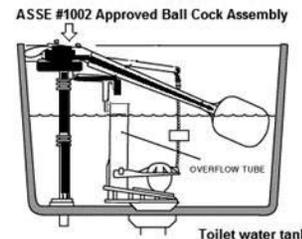
- When the shower hose head is hanging freely, it is at least 1 inch above the top of the flood level rim of the receptor (tub).
- Complies with ASSE #1014.
- Has ASME code 112.18.1 stamped on the handle.



In the Bathroom – Toilet Tanks

There are many unapproved toilet tank fill valve products sold at common retailers which do not meet the state plumbing code requirements for backflow prevention.

- Look for the ASSE #1002 Standard symbol on device and packaging.
- Replace any unapproved devices with an ASSE #1002 approved anti siphon ball-cock assembly. The average cost for this do-it-yourself-type device at home improvement stores is \$12 to \$22.
- Verify overflow tube is one inch below critical level (CL) marking on device.

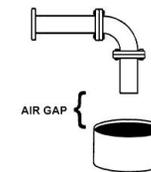


Do...

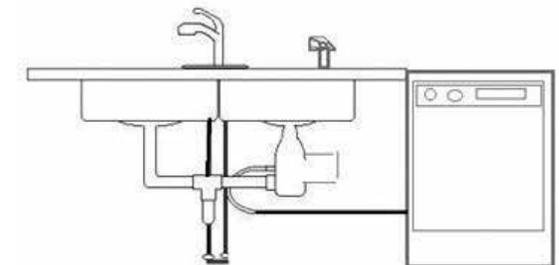
- Keep the ends of hoses clear of all possible contaminants.
- Make sure dishwashers are installed with the proper "air gap" device.
- Verify hose bibb vacuum breaker on all threaded faucets around your home.
- Make sure water treatment devices, such as water softeners, have the proper "air gap", which is a minimum of one inch above the drain.

Don't...

- Submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, sinks, ponds or automobile radiators.
- Use spray attachments without an approved backflow prevention device.
- Connect drain pipes from water softeners or other treatment systems directly to the sewer drain. Always be sure there is a one inch "air gap" separation.



ASSE #1011 Vacuum Breaker



In the Kitchen

Hoses and water treatment devices may create a potential backflow hazard if not properly isolated with backflow prevention devices or methods.