

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How does the cross connection control program affect me as a business owner?

As a building occupant, you are responsible to ensure that no hazards can jeopardize the cleanliness and potability of the public water system, in the event of a backflow or backsiphonage event. The city's cross connection control program is an organized, legally implemented and structured program to eliminate and contain the hazards to the municipal potable water supply. This program has been implemented by the City's ordinance, and enforced by the City's water department. The City hired Hydro Design, Inc. to inspect all commercial and industrial building structures in the city to ensure proper cross connection controls.

You are responsible from the outlet of the water meter or service connection including all piping downstream, to the furthest extent of the piping system inside the owners premises.

2. What is the legal basis for a local cross connection control program?

The Federal Government requires the enforcement of the Safe Drinking Water Act through the Environmental Protection Agency and OSHA

4. What should I expect as a residential property owner?

It is the city's goal to educate the public to prevent contamination of the public water supply. It is everyone's job to protect our water from unnecessary pollution. Site links are available on this site to further inform you on cross connection.

A cross-connection is an unprotected direct or potential connection between drinking water piping and a contamination source. This can be as simple as a garden hose that is submerged in a swimming pool, a bucket of detergent, or other contaminated water. Other examples are supply lines connected to boilers, process equipment, or bottom-fed tanks.

Backpressure reverses normal system flow. It occurs when downstream water pressure is greater than the water supply pressure. This can occur in any pressurized system such as boilers, elevated tanks, or recirculating systems. For example, water in a boiler operating under a pressure of 15-20 psi would backflow into the potable water if its supply pressure fell below this level. Sometimes this pressure drop can be created by just flushing a toilet!

5. What methods or products protect against backflow?

Once the degree of hazard has been determined, the proper backflow prevention device can be installed. Plumbing specialists, working with municipal officials, determine which device is best suited to each situation. Four basic methods are used:

- a. Air gap
- b. Atmospheric vacuum breakers, including hose connection vacuum breakers

- c. Pressure type vacuum breakers
- d. Reduced pressure principle backflow preventers

Many cross connections can be corrected with a simple hose bib (faucet) vacuum breaker. This means equipping each hose connection, both outside and inside, with a simple and inexpensive vacuum breaker that can be obtained from hardware stores or plumbing shops for under \$10 each. In other instances, more elaborate protective devices may be necessary.