

LIABILITY

If an improper plumbing connection caused a public health hazard, the responsible property owners and occupants may be held liable for damages.

RESPONSIBILITY

Safeguarding West Allis drinking water is everyone's responsibility.

Water supply systems and the connection of each plumbing fixture, piece of equipment, appliances or non-potable water system shall be designed, installed and maintained in such a manner to prevent the contamination of water supplies by the means of cross connections. SPS 382.41(3)

DEFINITIONS

Water Contamination

Improper plumbing connections on private property can contaminate the public water supply with harmful chemicals and/or bacteria.

Backflow

Harmful chemicals and bacteria can pass through an unprotected cross connection when the flow within the plumbing reversed direction. This reverse flow or "backflow" can be caused by a heating system or any other system that operates at a higher pressure than the public water supply. Backflow can also be caused when a siphon is created by undersized piping or by an interruption of the water supply during plumbing or water utility repairs.

Since all water supplies are subject to backflow, they need to be protected by Lincoln Water System approved backflow prevention assemblies.

Backflow Prevention Assembly

This is a device that is designed for and effective in preventing any foreign substance from the customer's premises from entering the potable water supply of the Lincoln Water System.

Cross Connections

Defined as a connection or potential connection between any part of a water system and another environment containing substances in a manner that, under any circumstance, would allow the substances to enter the water supply system by means of back siphonage or back pressure.

Commercial Cross Connection Control Program



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What is a Cross Connection?

A cross connection is a direct or potential arrangement of drinking water piping that is or can be connected to any water, liquid or gas not intended for human consumption. State plumbing codes require approved backflow prevention devices, assemblies or methods to be installed at every point of water connection and use.

How Can Contamination Occur?

Water normally flows in one direction, from the municipal water system through the customer's cold or hot water plumbing, to a plumbing connection. Under certain conditions water can flow in the reverse direction. This is known as backflow.

What is Backflow?

Backflow is when the water in your pipes (the pipes after the water meter) travels backward. There are two situations that can cause the water to flow backward or backflow; Back-siphonage or Backpressure.

What is Back-Siphonage?

Back-siphonage may occur due to a loss of pressure in the municipal water system during a fire emergency, a water main break, or a system repair. This creates a siphon in the plumbing system which can draw water out of a sink or bucket through a submerged hose.

What is Backpressure?

Backpressure may be created when a source of pressure, such as a boiler, creates a water pressure greater than the pressure supplied from the municipal water system. This may cause potentially contaminated water to be pushed into your plumbing system and the city water supply through an unprotected cross connection.

The Local Ordinance Prohibits...

The local Cross Connection Control Ordinance 16.84 was adopted to help ensure safe drinking water for everyone connected to the public water supply. This ordinance authorizes the local water purveyor to discontinue water supply in the event of unprotected cross connection. Reasonable time is allowed for making required corrections for violations identified during the on site survey. Please contact West Allis Water Utility or the Plumbing Inspector for specific requirements for compliance.

The owner/tenant must have testable backflow prevention assemblies tested and registered upon installation and each year thereafter to ensure that they function properly. Test results shall be forwarded to State of Wisconsin and City of West Allis. Testing and registration are required by the State of Wisconsin Plumbing Code SPS 382.20(13) and SPS 382.22(8). The cost to test the assembly is the responsibility of the owner.



FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM

