

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 the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and State Plumbing Codes, is to ensure everyone in the community has safe, clean drinking water.

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.

Backflow prevention and cross connection are subjects that affect all residents of Wisconsin. Preventing backflow is extremely important to safeguard your safe water supply. You cannot be too careful when it comes to your family's health.

Algoma Utilities' Cross Connection Program Information

Algoma Utilities conducts cross connection surveys at all properties served by our water system. This is required by Algoma City Ordinance 13.06 and Wisconsin Administrative Code SPS 382.41. Periodic surveys are conducted to identify and eliminate cross connections. Unprotected hose bibs require the addition of vacuum breakers, which will be available at the time of survey. The customer must install the vacuum breakers. Devices supplied will be billed to the customer.



As reported by the CDC, the United States has one of the safest drinking water supplies in the world. Let's keep it that way through proper cross connection protection!

DRINKING WATER INFORMATION



Algoma Utilities conducts frequent testing of its water to ensure federal and state standards are met. We are pleased to report that our drinking water is **SAFE** and meets federal and state requirements.

If you would like additional information regarding cross connections, you may visit Algoma Utilities' web site at www.algomautilities.com. There, you will also find additional information on the safety of Algoma Utilities' water system by viewing our Annual Water Quality Report, also referred to as the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). Look under Customer Services/Water Service/Consumer Confidence Report.

We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future! If you see any suspicious activity at any Algoma Utilities property, please immediately contact the Algoma Police Department at 920-487-3311 or Algoma Utilities at 920-487-5556.

People you know.



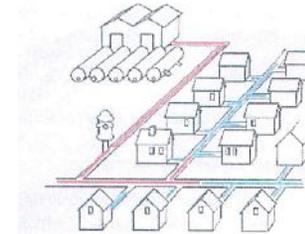
Service you trust, since 1904.



AUGUST 2016

PUBLIC AWARENESS: CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL

Bathrooms & Kitchens



**We're all connected.
Protect before you connect!**

Maintain the integrity of your public drinking water system.

What is Cross Connection?

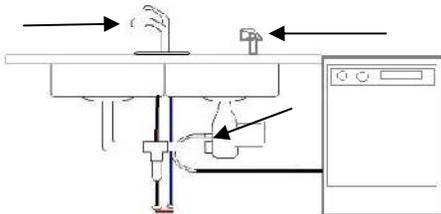
A cross connection is an actual or potential connection between the safe drinking water (potable) supply and source of contamination or pollution. State plumbing codes require approved back-flow prevention methods, devices or assemblies at every point of potable water connection and use. Cross Connections 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 treatment plant. However, certain hydraulic conditions left unprotected within your plumbing system may allow hazardous substances to enter and contaminate your own drinking water or even the public water supply. Water normally flows in one direction to your faucet. However under certain conditions, water can actually flow backwards. This is known as **backflow**. There are two situations that can cause backflow: back siphonage and back pressure.

- **Back Siphonage:** May occur due to a loss of pressure in the municipal water supply. Examples of how pressure can drop in a water supply can be due to a water main break or a high demand on a water main while fighting a fire.
- **Back Pressure:** May occur when a source (such as a boiler) creates a greater pressure than the incoming water pressure.

In the Kitchen

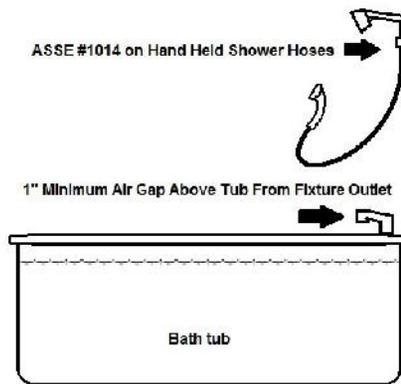


Hose connected devices may create a potential backflow hazard if not properly isolated with backflow prevention devices or methods.

In the Bathroom - Hand Held Shower

The hand held shower fixture, as referenced in ASME Code A112.18.1, is compliant:

- when the shower hose head is hanging freely, is at least 1 inch above the top of the flood level rim of the receptor (tub), or ideally, does not reach the tub.
- if it complies with ASSE # 1014.

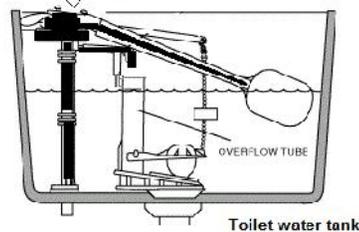


Toilet Tanks

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. This do-it-yourself-type device is available at local plumbers and hardware stores.
- Verify overflow tube is one inch below critical level (CL) marking on device.

ASSE #1002 Approved Ball Cock Assembly



Insights to protect your drinking water

Do...

- Keep the ends of hoses clear of all possible contaminants.
- Make sure dishwashers are installed with the proper "air gap" device.
- Make sure water treatment devices such as water softeners have the proper "air gap", which is a minimum of one inch above the drain.
- ASSE #1011 Vacuum Breakers
Verify hose bibb vacuum breaker on all threaded faucets around your home.



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.

Public Health & Safety...

Cross-connections are a serious threat to the health and safety of all water users! Algoma Utilities greatly appreciates your help in keeping our water supply safe.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

Algoma Utilities:

www.algomautilities.com

WI Dept. Safety & Professional Services:

<http://dps.wi.gov>

WI Dept. of Natural Resources:

<http://dnr.wi.gov>

Environmental Protection Agency:

<http://epa.gov>

American Water Works Association:

<http://www.drinktap.org/water-info/questions-about-water/backflow-prevention-and-cross-connection-control.aspx>