



MARCH 2019

**PUBLIC AWARENESS:
KEEPING OUR WATER SAFE
THROUGH CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL**

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.

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.

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.

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.



INSIGHTS TO PROTECT YOUR DRINKING WATER

DO...

- Keep the ends of hoses clear of all possible contaminants.
- Ensure that lawn irrigation systems have proper backflow protection.
- Verify and install a simple 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 any drain.

DON'T...

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



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). Both can be found by looking under Customer Services/Water Department/Consumer Confidence Report.



A hand-held shower fixture is compliant:

- When shower head is hanging freely, it is at least 1" above top of the flood level rim of the bathtub.
- Complies with **ASSE#1014**.
- Has the ASME code **ASSE#A112.18.1** stamped on the handle.

HOME EXTERIOR

Verify all outside faucets are protected with a hose bib vacuum breaker of the ASSE certified types shown below. **ASSE#1001** Frost-Free vacuum breakers are recommended for outdoor use.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

Algoma Utilities:

<https://www.algomautilities.com/water-department>

WI Dept. Safety & Professional Services:

<https://dsps.wi.gov>

WI Dept. of Natural Resources:

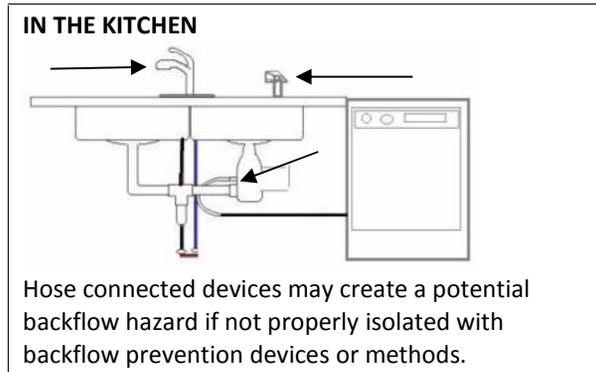
<https://dnr.wi.gov>

HydroCorp Inc:

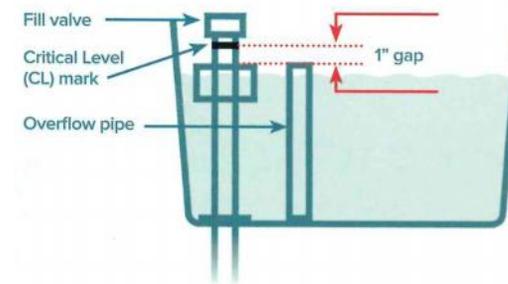
<http://www.hydrocorpinc.com/resources/links>

American Water Works Association:

<https://drinktap.org/Water-Info/Questions-About-Water>

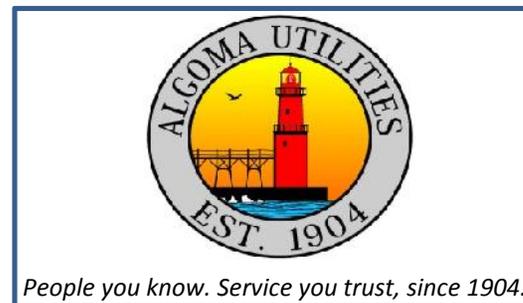


TOILET TANKS

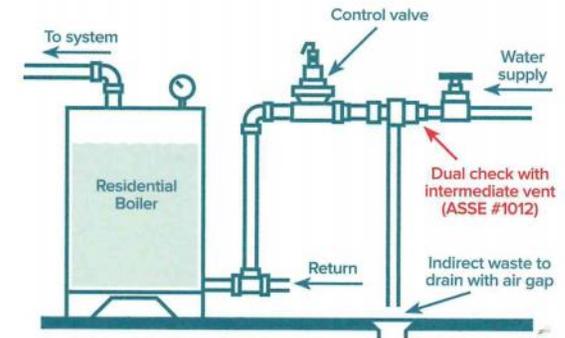


There are many unapproved toilet tank fill valve products sold at retailers. Some do not meet the state plumbing code requirements for backflow prevention.

- Look for **ASSE #1002** Standard symbol on the device and packaging.
- Replace any unapproved devices with an **ASSE #1002** approved anti-siphon fill valve device.
- Verify overflow tube is 1" below the critical level (CL) marking on the fill valve.

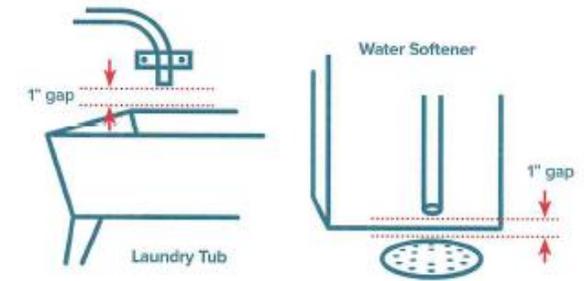


BOILERS



Boilers with chemical additives require an **ASSE#1013** Reduced Pressure Principle Backflow Prevention Assembly.

ELSEWHERE IN YOUR HOME



Always maintain an air gap of at least 1 inch between the end of the drain hose and the highest potential water level.

Did You KNOW ?

- 1.) Water is the main food the body needs.
- 2.) The average person could live without food for nearly a month, but could only survive about one week without water. That's how essential water is to human life.
- 3.) More than 25 percent of bottled water comes from a Municipal Water Supply.

Algoma Utilities greatly appreciates your help in keeping our water supply safe through proper cross connection control!