

CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS A CROSS-CONNECTION?

A cross-connection is a physical connection between the public drinking water system and anything else, including another water supply that can allow pollutants or contaminants to backflow into the public drinking water system.

WHAT IS BACKFLOW?

Backflow is the reversal of flow from a residential or commercial water system back into the public drinking water system. A backflow incident could carry pollutants or contaminants into our public drinking water supplies making them unsafe to use.

The Uniform Plumbing Code and the Utah Public Drinking Water Rules require that all cross-connections be eliminated or protected against backflow by installing an approved backflow device or assembly.

CAN I AFFECT THE QUALITY OF THE WATER I DRINK?

Yes. Many public drinking water systems are contaminated each year by pollutants or contaminants that backflow into the water system through unprotected cross-connections.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MY HOME OR BUSINESS FROM THE DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH CROSS-CONNECTIONS AND BACKFLOW?

Irrigation Systems

Irrigation systems must never be physically connected to the public drinking water system.

Untreated irrigation system can carry disease-causing microorganisms that can contaminate our water supplies making them unsafe to use. A complete **physical separation** between the pressure irrigation supply and the public drinking system is required.

Landscape Sprinkling Systems

The Uniform Plumbing Code requires that all residential and commercial landscape sprinkling systems connected to the public drinking water system be equipped with an approved backflow prevention device or assembly. If an Assembly is required, it is the owner's responsibility to purchase the backflow assembly and hire a licensed plumber to install it. The assembly must be tested by a certified backflow technician within ten days of being placed into service and a test report must be sent to the City. This test and report must be updated annually.

Threaded Hose Connections (Hose Bibs)

A large majority of the backflow incidents that occur are associated with the use of garden hoses, etc. Chapter 10 of the Uniform Plumbing Code requires that all potable water outlets with hose attachments other than water heater drains and clothes washer connections are protected by a **non-removable** hose bib vacuum breaker or an atmospheric vacuum breaker installed to code. We strongly recommend that all water outlets with hose attachments are protected by one of the above methods.

HOW CAN I DETERMINE IF I HAVE A CROSS-CONNECTION ON MY WATER SYSTEM?

If your water supply is connected to something that could potentially affect the water quality resulting in health or safety risks, a cross-connection probably exists and should be protected against backflow.

EXAMPLES OF COMMON CROSS-CONNECTIONS:

Garden hose submerged in a bucket, utility sink, backyard pond, swimming pool, etc.

A spray attachment used on the end of a hose to apply pesticides to your lawn and garden.

Unprotected sprinkling systems connected to the culinary water line.

Never use a hose connected to a culinary water line to unplug backed up sewer lines.

WHERE CAN I GET INFORMATION OR HAVE MY QUESTIONS ANSWERED?

Utah Division of Drinking Water 801-536-4200 www.drinkingwater.utah.gov

Bountiful City Water Department 801-298-6180

ORDINANCE NO. 96-4

AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY BY THE INSTALLATION OF BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICES BY WATER CUSTOMERS.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BOUNTIFUL, UTAH:

SECTION 1. Title 4 of the Bountiful City Code is hereby amended to add the following:

4-5-107. Protection of Public Water Supply

(a) It is the intent of this ordinance to protect the public potable water supply from contamination by isolating within a water customer's distribution system any contaminants or pollution from their own system which could backflow or back siphon into the public water supply.

(b) It is the responsibility of the Water Department and the Engineering Department to monitor compliance with this ordinance, and to report violations to the City Attorney.

(c) It is the responsibility of each water customer to purchase and maintain any backflow prevention device or assembly required by this ordinance or the Uniform Plumbing Code, as adopted by the State of Utah. The type of backflow prevention device or assembly shall depend on the degree of hazard which exists, as defined in the Uniform Plumbing Code, as adopted by the State of Utah.

(d) All backflow prevention devices and/or assemblies shall be tested within ten days of initial installation and yearly thereafter by a certified tester as required by the Uniform Plumbing Code, as adopted by the State of Utah, at the responsibility and expense of the owner.

(e) All connections to the Bountiful City water system shall in all respects conform to the Uniform Plumbing Code as adopted by the State of Utah, the Utah State Public Drinking Water Regulations, and the ordinances of Bountiful City.

(f) All presently installed assemblies which do not meet the requirements of this ordinance but were approved at the time of installation and have been properly maintained may be left in service in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance, so long as such action does not constitute a threat to the integrity or wholesomeness of the public water supply. Any determination of whether a threat exists shall be made solely by the City. In

the event that it is determined that an existing system constitutes a threat to the integrity or wholesomeness of the public water supply, the water customer shall, at his expense, replace or repair the defective assembly in compliance with the Uniform Plumbing Code, as adopted by the State of Utah.

(g) The water system of every customer of the City's public water supply shall be open to inspection at reasonable times by authorized City personnel to determine compliance and whether any hazard exists.

(i) Any connection to the City water supply which actually allows or which may allow backflow from any other source is hereby declared to be a public nuisance.

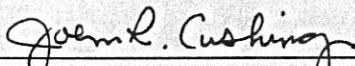
SECTION 2. Repeal. All City ordinances in conflict with these provisions are hereby repealed. However, all provisions in force immediately prior to this ordinance shall continue in force hereafter for the purpose of any pending legal action, all rights acquired, all fines, penalties and forfeitures imposed, and any liabilities already incurred.

SECTION 3. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance is declared invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon first publication.

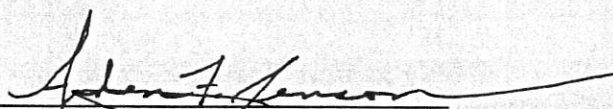
PASSED and APPROVED this 5th day of June, 1996.

BOUNTIFUL CITY



John R. Cushing, Mayor

ATTEST:



Arden F. Jensen, City Recorder