

DID YOU KNOW?

The purpose of the water purveyor's cross-connection control program shall be to protect the public water system from contamination via cross-connections. We would like to introduce and define some of the terminology we use.



Cross Connection Control Definitions

Accessible – having access, but which first may require the removal of an access panel, door, or similar obstruction. Readily accessible means direct access without the need to remove any obstruction.

Approved backflow prevention assembly – assemblies appearing on the current *Approved Backflow Prevention Assemblies List* developed by the University of Southern California Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research.

Authority having jurisdiction –(AHJ) the local official, board, department, or agency authorized to administer and enforce the provisions of the Uniform Plumbing Code as adopted under chapter 19.27 RCW.

Backflow - means the undesirable reversal of flow of water or other substances through a cross connection into the public water system or consumer's potable water system.

Backflow Prevention Assembly – these are testable devices and contain independently mechanical components.

Backflow Prevention Device – devices installed on potable water lines to protect against contamination or pollution of the water supply and are non-testable using a gauge.

Backpressure – a pressure greater than the pressure provided by the public water system (caused by a pump, elevated tank or piping, boiler, or other means) on the consumer's side of the service connection.

Back-siphonage – means backflow due to a reduction in system pressure in the purveyor's distribution system and/or consumer's water system.

Cross-connection means any actual or potential physical connection between a public water system or the consumer's water system and any source of non-potable liquid, solid, or gas that could contaminate the potable water supply by backflow.

Distribution system – all piping components of a public water system that serve to convey water from transmission mains linked to source, storage and treatment facilities to the consumer excluding individual services.

Expansion Tank – An expansion tank or expansion vessel is a small tank used to protect closed water heating systems and domestic hot water systems from excessive pressure.

Flow-through fire protection system– Is constructed of approved potable water piping and materials to which sprinkler heads are attached; and terminates at a connection to a toilet or other plumbing fixture to prevent stagnant water. These systems do not require backflow protection.

Irrigation - Applying water or wastewater to land areas to supply the water and nutrient needs of plants.

High health hazard – cross-connection involving any substance that could impair the quality of potable water and create an actual public health hazard through injury, poisoning, or spread of disease. Also known as a contaminate.

In-premises protection – a method of protecting the health of consumers served by the consumer's potable water system, located within the property lines of the consumer's premises by the installation of an approved air gap or backflow prevention assembly at the point of hazard, which is generally a plumbing fixture.

Low hazard – a cross-connection that could impair the quality of potable water to a degree that does not create a hazard to the public health but does adversely and unreasonably affect the aesthetic qualities of potable waters for domestic use. Also known as “Pollutant”.

Non-potable – Water unsafe for human or animal for drinking, personal and culinary use.

Premises isolation – a method of protecting a public water system by installation of approved air gaps or approved backflow prevention assemblies at or near the service connection or alternative location acceptable to the purveyor to isolate the consumer's water system from the purveyor's distribution system.

Potable water - Water that is safe for human and animal consumption (drinking and cooking).

Public water system - A system that provides piped water for human consumption to at least 15 service connections or regularly serves 25 individuals.

Service Line – water service line connecting to a structure from the water distribution main.

Used water – water which has left the control of the purveyor and has passed through the water meter.



For more information, please visit our website at:

www.kirklandwa.gov/backflow-prevention or contact the City of Kirkland's Cross Connection Control Office at 425-587-3913.