Did you know . . .

that 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 State Plumbing Code and Regulations, is to ensure everyone in the community has safe, clean drinking water.

It's Public Safety:

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.

CITY OF BARABOO
A Great Place to Live, Work and Play

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CROSS CONNECTION HAZARDS

DRINKING WATER

Bathrooms & Kitchens

Could you be contaminating your drinking water?

What is 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 which is not intended for human consumption. State plumbing codes require approved back-flow prevention devices, assemblies, or methods to be installed at every point of potable water connection and use.

How does contamination occur?

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

What is Backflow?

Backflow is when the water in your pipes (the pipes that enter your home after the water meter), travels backwards. There are two situations that can cause water to flow backward: back siphonage and 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 system repair. This creates a siphon in your plumbing which can draw water out of a sink or bucket.

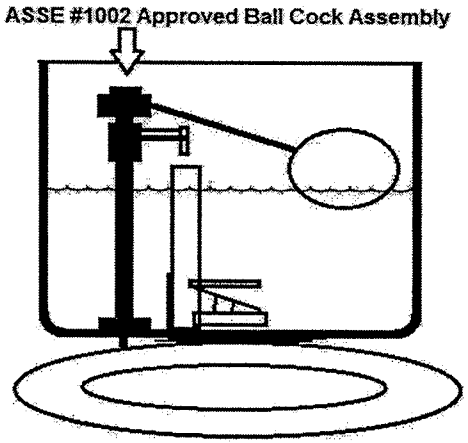
What is Backpressure?

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

In the Bathroom

All toilet tanks are supplied water from the same piping that supplies the building's drinking water. It is important and required that all toilet tanks have the **approved** device installed to prevent backflow from the toilet into the drinking water supply.

Most toilets come from the manufacturer with the proper device already installed; however, not all do. In addition, there are unapproved products sold at retailers which do not meet the state plumbing code requirements for backflow prevention.

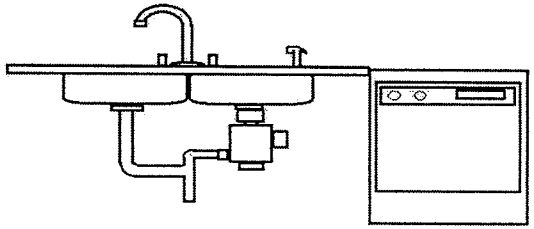


How to verify your toilet tank has the proper device installed:

- 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. Average cost for this do-it-yourself-type device available at home improvement stores is $12 to $22.
- Verify water level is one inch below overflow tube
- Consult with a licensed plumber.

In the Kitchen

Hoses and water treatment devices may create a potential backflow hazard if not properly isolated with backflow prevention devices or methods.



What You Need To Do:

- Keep the ends of hoses clear of all possible contaminants.
- Make sure dishwashers are installed with a proper "air gap" device.
- Verify or install hose bibb vacuum breakers on all threaded faucets around your home.
- Make sure any water treatment devices—like water softeners—have the proper "air gap" minimum of one inch from any drain.
- Verify or install an ASSE #1014 on any bath tub hand held shower connections