



# Connersville Utilities

## Water and Sewer

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### **Cross Connection Control Program Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **I received a Cross Connection Survey. What is this about?**

The Connersville Utilities is required to survey their customers every two years. This survey is to identify and eliminate possible sources of cross connections to help ensure the safety of the public water supply. The information collected through the surveys helps to identify where backflow prevention devices may be needed as well as providing information on existing devices that may not have been previously submitted to the City.

#### **What is Cross Connection?**

Cross connection is a physical connection between a possible source of contamination and the public drinking water system piping. This connection, if not properly protected, can lead to the contamination of the drinking water system through a backflow event.

#### **What is backflow?**

Backflow is the reversal of water flow through a cross connection from a possible source of contamination into the public drinking water system. Backflow may be caused by either backpressure or backsiphonage. A loss of pressure in the public drinking water system may lead to backsiphonage through unprotected cross connections or backpressure may be created when the water pressure of a facility's internal water system is elevated above the supply pressure of the public drinking water system resulting in backflow through unprotected cross connections.

#### **Who is responsible?**

The responsibility for preventing backflow is divided. In general, state and local plumbing inspectors have authority over plumbing systems within buildings while state regulatory agencies and public water supplies regulate protection of the distribution system at each service connection.

Water customers have the ultimate responsibility for properly maintaining their plumbing systems.

It is the water customer's responsibility to ensure that unprotected cross connections are not created and that any required backflow prevention devices are tested in accordance with state requirements and maintained in operable condition.

**Why should I be concerned?**

Backflow may affect the quality of the drinking water at your facility and has the potential to create health hazards if contaminated water enters your water supply plumbing system and is used for drinking, cooking, or bathing.

Unprotected cross connection with water supply plumbing or public drinking water piping systems are prohibited.

You are responsible for protecting your water supply plumbing from backflow that may contaminate your drinking water and the drinking water of others. This includes complying with the plumbing code and not creating unprotected cross connections.

**Who is responsible for having the backflow tested?**

It is the responsibility of the property owner to have the backflow device tested by a qualified tester. It is also the responsibility of the property/business owner to schedule their own appointment.

**Who tests backflow devices?**

While any Indiana licensed plumber can inspect plumbing or install a backflow device, only an Indiana Cross Connection Control Device Inspector can test and tag the device.

**Where can I find a list of qualified testers in my area?**

[http://www.in.gov/idem/cleanwater/files/dw\\_inspection\\_backflow\\_testers\\_indiana.pdf](http://www.in.gov/idem/cleanwater/files/dw_inspection_backflow_testers_indiana.pdf)

**Who pays for the testing and how much does it cost?**

It is the responsibility of the property owner to pay for any testing and/or required repairs to the backflow device. Cost will vary with existing device location, conditions, and type of device. Please review pricing requirements with selected test company/tester before having the test performed.

**Will this cause disruption in my water service?**

Testing does require the flow of the water to be stopped through the backflow device during the test process resulting in a short interruption.

**How often do I have to have my backflow device tested?**

Backflow devices are required to be tested upon installation and at annual intervals thereafter.

**Do I submit the test to Connersville Utilities or does the test company /tester do this for me?**

The test company/tester will submit the completed test form(s) for their clients.