

Cross Connection Control Program – Summary & Frequently asked questions.

What is the purpose of a Cross Connection Control Program?

Under requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has created rules in its Public Drinking Water Program, Chapter 11 Title 10 CSR 60-11.010 for the prevention of water backflow. Under these rules water providers are required to implement and maintain a Cross Connection Control Program to protect the public potable water supply from the possibility of contamination or pollution. To meet these requirements the City of Branson has adopted a Cross Connection Control Ordinance that outlines requirements to contain water that has passed through a customer's meter and prevent that water from back-flowing into the public water supply.

Who is affected by this ordinance?

The requirements of the ordinance apply to all premises with connection to the City water system that may have a potential to backflow contaminated water. Staff is currently conducting an inspection survey of all water customer connections within the City water system to determine the exact need for backflow protection at individual locations. If backflow protection is required the Utilities department will notify the customer and explain backflow assembly installation requirements and timelines to complete the installation. All new connections must meet current installation requirements. Many of the newer existing connections may already meet necessary requirements however many of the older water system connections may need to be brought up to current standards.

How are requirements to install backflow assemblies determined?

If a backflow assembly is necessary at a customer's location, staff will determine the type based on the degree of potential hazard. MDNR regulations classify hazards to public water supplies under two classes. Class I is the more serious hazard risk and requires an approved Air Gap Separation or a Reduced Pressure Principle Backflow Prevention Assembly (RP) which provides maximum protection against backflows as long as the units are properly tested and maintained. Section 90-276(b) of the Cross Connection Control ordinance provides examples of user types that would be considered a Class 1 hazard. Backflow of water from these type facilities has the potential to contaminate the public drinking water supply and possibly threaten public health.

A Class II hazard is explained in Section 90-276(c) of the ordinance. A Class II hazard is not a threat to public health but could cause minor damage to the public water system, a nuisance situation or make the water objectionable. In situations where a type of connection is not specifically listed it will be necessary for staff to determine if protective assemblies must be installed and if so what type.

What are the requirements to the customer?

There are several specific responsibilities that water customers will need to follow, such as assembly installation, testing, repair and replacement requirements. If an assembly will not properly test it must be repaired or replaced and immediate notification must be provided to the water supplier. A required backflow assembly is never to be bypassed unless uninterrupted service is necessary. In such cases the customer must install a second assembly in the bypass line. The customer must make the premise accessible at reasonable times for inspection by the city. Along with the city the customer has a

responsibility to survey their own systems to determine possible cross connections that will require backflow prevention.

Where and how should backflow devices be installed?

For optimum containment each type of backflow assembly has to be installed in a certain manner and located after the customer's water meter but before the first branch or tee in the customer's plumbing system. In order to ensure that any type of assembly installed performs properly specific installation requirements must be met. These requirements are specifically outlined in 90-278 of the ordinance. Necessary space must also be provided to allow for assembly testing and inspection. Assemblies are normally installed just inside the customer's building however this may not always be possible. For such cases guidelines are provided in the ordinance for limited alternate applications.

After an assembly is installed how often must it be inspected and tested and who can perform testing?

The customer will need to have all backflow prevention assemblies located on their property tested when the assembly is installed and then at least one time per year by an independent Certified Backflow Assembly Tester. A list of local certified testers can be obtained at the Utilities department. A state wide list of testers can be obtained from MDNR. The annual test must be conducted within 30 days of the anniversary date of installation. The customer is responsible to pay the cost of the testing services and any maintenance and repair services necessary for their backflow assemblies. The city will only inspect the customer's system to determine if an assembly is required and if the proper assembly is installed.

Records and Reporting Requirements.

The Utilities department maintains a data base of all customer locations that require backflow protection. Within 10 days of installation of an assembly, repair or replacement or any assembly performance test, the user will need to have their certified tester submit a performance test report to the Utilities department. As required by MDNR, Utilities will input this information into our data files.

What are the penalties for non-compliance?

Due to the seriousness of preventing water backflows any violations that may occur must be corrected within 14 days following notification to the customer. If the violation is not corrected after this period of time the customer's water meter will be turned off until the situation is corrected.

Are there exemptions to these rules?

Residential homes are exempt for the most part from the requirements of the ordinance unless the premise is equipped with irrigation, a fire sprinkler system, a private well, a pool or some other type of cross connection. MDNR may allow other limited exemptions however strict requirements must be met and maintained. In extreme situations an exemption pertaining to variations in installation may be allowed but only if it is clear protection of the public water supply will not be compromised. Any variation must be approved by City staff and MDNR.