



NEW JERSEY
AMERICAN WATER

WE KEEP LIFE FLOWING®

To help protect your drinking water and the health of our communities, customers may be required to install proper backflow prevention equipment.

We're here to help

Have questions or need help determining if you are in compliance with cross connection requirements?

Contact our Cross Connection Team at NJAW.CrossConnection@amwater.com or 848-232-8309.

To learn more

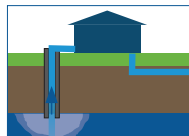
Visit us online at newjerseyamwater.com. Under Water Quality, select Cross Connection & Backflow Prevention.

PREVENT CROSS CONNECTIONS AND BACKFLOW

Safe water service is essential

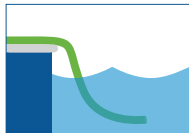
Protecting your water supply is everyone's responsibility. State regulations require residential, commercial and industrial customers served by a public water system to protect the public water system from potential contamination. Unsafe habits inside and outside the home can result in a cross connection. When this happens, water of lesser quality can backflow and contaminate the community's water system.

Cross connection prevention tips



Do NOT connect to auxiliary water sources (private well, spring, cistern). This is not allowed when connected to a public water supply. See page 2 for more information.

Tip: Contact our Cross Connection Team for more information.



Do NOT submerge a hose under water when filling a pool.

Tip: Set up the hose so it stays out of the pool and above the water.



Do NOT leave a hose connected to a pesticide or fertilizer sprayer, which could cause the chemicals to enter your water supply.

Tip: Install hose bibb vacuum breakers on fixtures used for hose connections, including outdoor, basement and laundry room spigots.



Do NOT allow a garden hose to sit in a puddle, watering can or bucket of soapy water.

Tips: Maintain air gaps. Avoid submerging hoses (or faucets) and place them where they can not become submerged. Disconnect the hose at the spigot after use.



Do NOT use toilets that are not outfitted with anti-siphon protection.

Tip: Check if toilets are outfitted with anti-siphon ballcock assemblies.

QUALITY. ONE MORE WAY WE KEEP LIFE FLOWING.

What is cross connection and backflow?

Cross Connection is any actual or physical connection between a potable (drinkable) water supply and any source of non-potable liquid, solid or gas that could contaminate drinking water under certain circumstances.

Backflow is the reverse flow of water or other substances through a cross connection into the treated water distribution system. There are two types of backflow: backpressure and backsiphonage.

Backpressure occurs when the pressure of the contaminant source exceeds the positive pressure in the water distribution main. An example would be if a potable water supply main has a connection to a hot water boiler system that is not protected by an approved and functioning backflow preventer. If pressure in the boiler system increases to where it exceeds the pressure in the water distribution system, backflow from the boiler to the water supply system may occur.

Backsiphonage is caused by a negative pressure (vacuum or partial vacuum) in the water distribution system. This situation is similar in effect to sipping water through a straw. Negative pressure in the drinking water distribution system can occur because of a water main break or when a hydrant is used for fire fighting.

Guidelines for installing backflow prevention on water service connections

Backflow devices are typically installed as close to the water meter as is practical. Devices should always be installed on the customers' side of the meter (the side that leads to the internal plumbing). There is typically an arrow on the backflow prevention device, which indicates the direction of water flow. This arrow should be pointing away from the meter and toward the internal plumbing.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

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Cross Connection Team Email: NJAW.CrossConnection@amwater.com
Phone: 848-232-8309

You can also visit our website at newjerseyamwater.com. Under Water Quality, select Cross Connection & Backflow Prevention.

Frequently asked questions

Why should I care about backflow prevention?

Backflow may affect the quality of the water at your home, business or facility. It has the potential to create health hazards if contaminated water enters the public water supply. Unprotected cross connections with water supply plumbing or public drinking water piping systems are prohibited. We are all responsible for protecting our water supply from backflow that may contaminate our drinking water. It includes complying with the plumbing code and avoiding unprotected cross connections.

What is an unapproved water supply?

An unapproved water supply is any auxiliary source of water on the property that is not regulated by the state of New Jersey, including but not limited to, private wells, expansion tanks, cisterns, etc. (N.J.A.C. 7:10-10.2(e)1.).

I have a private well on my property. Can I continue to use it?

To continue to use a private well, the homeowner must install a backflow prevention device on their service line, regardless of whether or not the well is connected to the household plumbing. A backflow device is NOT required if the well is fully sealed and abandoned. See below for the requirements of each option.

- 1. Abandonment:** If the well is fully sealed and abandoned by a licensed well driller, a backflow device is not required (N.J.A.C. 7:9D-3.1). The customer must provide signed documentation of the abandonment to New Jersey American Water.
- 2. Keep Well Active:** A double check valve or a reduced pressure zone backflow device must be installed on the service line, as close to the meter as is practical. The device must be inspected and tested annually to ensure that it is in proper working condition (N.J.A.C. 7:10-10.2(e)1.).

Who is responsible to pay for backflow equipment and maintenance?

Costs related to purchasing backflow equipment, as well as the installation and maintenance, is the sole responsibility of the customer. It is recommended that customers obtain more than one cost estimate before installation.

What happens if I don't comply?

Failure to comply with cross connection requirements may result in water service disconnection.

Where can I learn more about cross connection and backflow prevention requirements?

For a link to the New Jersey Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 7:10 – Safe Drinking Water Act Rules), visit us online at newjerseyamwater.com. Under Water Quality, select Cross Connection & Backflow Prevention.