

## We are all connected to the same public water system! Keep it safe!

The *Avoyelles Waterworks Dist. #1* of Bordelonville is required by State Drinking Water Regulations contained in the Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 51, Public Health Sanitary Code, Part XII, Section 343 (Cross Connections), Section 344 (Protection of Water Supply/Containment Practices), Section 345 (Connection with Unsafe Water Sources Forbidden) and Part XIV, Titled Plumbing; Also referred to as *The LA State Plumbing Code, 2013 Edition* Section 609 (Protection of Potable Water Supply) to have a plan and process to identify unprotected cross connections, and to ensure they are eliminated or protected with an approved backflow preventer to protect the public water supply. This brochure is intended to explain what a cross connection is, describe typical household cross connections and what you can do to help protect your drinking water.

As a part of our efforts to keep your drinking water safe, we have adopted an ordinance for Cross Connection Control and will be conducting a cross connection control survey of residential and commercial customers served by our system. The purpose of the survey is to help us determine if any of our customers have special plumbing or activities on their premises that could increase the risk of contamination to our water system. If you are a commercial customer, we will be performing a physical survey of your system.

For most customers, the cross connection control hazard posed to the public water system is minimal. This is because your plumbing was installed in compliance with the Uniform Plumbing Code. The UPC generally provides adequate protection of your water piping and our public water distribution system from cross connections. However, a few customers with special plumbing or activities on their premises may pose an increased health risk to other customers served by our system. These customers may need to have a backflow preventer installed on their service lines or provide alternate protection to prevent possible contamination.

Please complete the attached questionnaire by checking the applicable boxes on the table; and return the completed questionnaire by turning it in with your water bill or mail to PO Box 64, Bordelonville, LA 71320, fax it to 318-997-2675 or email it to [Avoywaterdist1@hotmail.com](mailto:Avoywaterdist1@hotmail.com). If you have any questions about the survey or how to fill out the questionnaire, please contact our office at 318-997-2122.

Thanks in advance for completing the questionnaire. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us to protect the drinking water we deliver to our customers.

## What is a Cross Connection?

A cross connection is a point in a plumbing system where the potable water supply is connected to a non-potable source. Briefly, a cross connection exists whenever the drinking water system is or could be connected to any non-potable source (plumbing fixture, equipment used in any plumbing system). Pollutants or contaminants can enter the safe drinking water system through uncontrolled cross connections when backflow occurs.

Backflow is the unwanted flow of non-potable substances back into the consumer's plumbing system and/or public drinking water system. There are two types of backflow: back-siphonage and back-pressure. Back-siphonage is caused by a negative pressure in the supply line to a facility or plumbing fixture. It may occur during waterline breaks, when repairs are made to the water lines, when shutting off the water supply, etc. Back-pressure can occur when the potable water supply is connected to another system operated at a higher pressure or has the ability to create pressure, etc. Principal causes are booster pumps, pressure vessels, elevated plumbing, etc.

### Examples of Common Cross Connections

- Hose Bibs
- Swimming Pools
- Irrigation Sprinkler Systems
- Auxiliary Water Systems
- Chemical/Processing Tanks
- Fire Suppression Systems
- Solar Heating Systems
- Laboratory & Aspirator Equipment
- Boilers
- Photo Developing Equipment
- Water Recirculating Systems

### How Do We Protect Our System?

In general, the installation of plumbing in compliance with the plumbing code will provide adequate protection for your plumbing system from contamination. However, the installation of a backflow prevention assembly on the water service may be required. A backflow prevention assembly, which is a mechanical device designed to prevent backflow through cross connections, will normally be required when special plumbing increases the hazard level. However, for these devices to protect as designed, they must meet stringent installation requirements, be tested annually by a State Certified Tester and repaired as necessary.

To help determine if a backflow prevention assembly is required, the water system may survey your plumbing system to determine potential/actual cross-connections.

# Cross Connection Control Questionnaire

## RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS (SINGLE FAMILY HOMES)

Does your residence have the following:

<input type="checkbox"/> Farm/Animal Troughs	<input type="checkbox"/> Sewage/Grey Water System
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish or Decorative Ponds	<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming Pool/Spa
<input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse	<input type="checkbox"/> Solar Heating System
<input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation System	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Treatment (i.e. Softener)

## COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS

Does your business have the following:

<input type="checkbox"/> Auxiliary Water System	<input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation System
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooling Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Laboratories
<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Protection Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming Pool/Spa
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish or Decorative Ponds	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Towers/Storage

What type of business do you have?:

<input type="checkbox"/> Animal Grooming	<input type="checkbox"/> Apartments/Condos	<input type="checkbox"/> Automotive Repair
<input type="checkbox"/> Barber Shop/Salon	<input type="checkbox"/> Bar/Lounge	<input type="checkbox"/> Brewery
<input type="checkbox"/> Car Wash	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical Facility	<input type="checkbox"/> Dairy Plant
<input type="checkbox"/> Dry Cleaner/Laundry	<input type="checkbox"/> Hospital/Clinic	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Manufacturing
<input type="checkbox"/> Motel/Hotel	<input type="checkbox"/> Morgue/Mortuary	<input type="checkbox"/> Nursing Home
<input type="checkbox"/> Paper Plant	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo Processing	<input type="checkbox"/> Plating (metal) Plant
<input type="checkbox"/> School/College	<input type="checkbox"/> Storage	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		

If yes, what type of Backflow Preventer Assembly do you have?

<input type="checkbox"/> Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker	<input type="checkbox"/> Pressure Vacuum Breaker
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduced Pressure Principle Assembly	

Location of your Backflow Preventer Assembly

Name or Company

Address

Email

Phone

Comments:

## What else can I do to protect our water supply?

### DO:

- Complete the required Cross Connection Control Survey Questionnaire provided.
- Keep the ends of your hoses clear of all possible contaminants.
- If not already equipped with an integral (built-in) vacuum breaker, buy & install hose bib type vacuum breakers on all threaded faucets. (These devices do NOT require testing).
- Have all backflow prevention assemblies tested every year.
- Contact us with any questions you may have about plumbing or equipment connections.

### DO NOT:

- Submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, sinks, or ponds.
- Use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device.
- Directly connect waste drain pipes from water softeners or other treatment systems to the sewer system. All drains should be air gapped.
- Use a hose to unplug blocked toilets, sewers, etc.

For more information about cross connections and backflow prevention, contact our office or visit the EPA website at <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/drinkingwater/pws/crossconnectioncontrol/index.cfm>.

***We are committed to providing quality, cost effective service in the production, treatment, testing and delivery of safe drinking water to all residential, commercial and industrial users.***

## AVOYELLES WATERWORKS DIST. #1

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