

MILWAUKEE REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTER
WATER

Water System Cross Connection Public Education Information

What is a Cross Connection?

A cross connection is an actual or potential physical connection between the safe drinking water supply and a source of contamination or pollution.

How Does Contamination Occur?

Water normally flows in one direction. However, under certain conditions, water can actually flow backwards; this is known as backflow. There are two situations that can cause backflow: backsiphonage and backpressure. Backsiphonage is the creation of backflow as a result of negative pressure that may occur during a fire fighting emergency, a water main break or system repair. Backpressure is when a source of pressure (such as a boiler) creates a pressure greater than the pressure supplied from the public water system.

Tips to Protect Your Drinking Water:

Keep the ends of hoses clear of all possible contaminants. Make sure dishwashers are installed with a proper air gap device. Verify and install a hose bib vacuum breaker on all threaded faucets around your home and work. Make sure water treatment devices such as water softeners have the proper air gap (greater than one inch above any drain) or compliant backflow prevention device installed.

To Our Customers:

Did you know your water can become contaminated if connections to your plumbing system are not properly protected? Milwaukee Regional Medical Center Water Service is providing this information as part of our local cross connection control program to ensure that everyone in our community has safe, clean drinking water. 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 ongoing Cross Connection Control Program involving public education, on-site inspections and possible corrective actions by building owners if required.

More Information:

MRMC Water

414-778-4570

<https://mrmccampus.org/about-us/sustainability>

WI Department of Safety and Professional Services

www.dsps.wi.gov

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

www.epa.gov

WI Department of Natural Resources

www.dnr.wi.gov

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