

CROSS CONNECTION/ BACKFLOW PREVENTION USE SURVEY

The City of Quincy is committed to providing quality and safe drinking water to all of Quincy's residential and commercial users. To help ensure that the drinking water remains safe, the City of Quincy adopted a Cross Connection Control Program.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) requires every water supply to develop and implement a cross connection (backflow prevention) control program. One requirement of this program is to send a survey to all water customers in the City of Quincy every two years. All water customers are requested to complete the survey. Please note that there are some required fields, but not all fields in the survey need to be filled in.

IEPA regulations state that backflow preventers must be installed on certain water-supplied systems. Two such systems include: lawn sprinkler and fire suppression systems. The backflow preventers are required to be tested and certified annually by a licensed Cross Connection Control Device Inspector (CCCDI).

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

What is a cross connection?

A cross connection is a connection between a potable water supply and a non-potable source, where a contaminant potentially could enter the drinking water supply. Cross connections should be protected by a valve called a backflow preventer.

What is a backflow preventer?

A backflow preventer is a device that allows the water to flow only in one direction and prevent a pipe or device connected to the water supply line to allow water to flow back into the municipal supply system. Backflow preventers are the property of the water customer and the responsibility lies with the customer for required annual testing and

maintenance. The water customer must contract with a licensed tester to perform the required annual tests and any necessary repairs.

Where do backflow mandates come from and who is going to enforce these mandates?

Section 18 of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act (P.A. 89-445, eff. 2-7-96; 90-773, eff. 8-14-98) and 35 Ill. Adm. Code 607.104 provides the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) direction from both the Illinois legislature and Illinois Pollution Control Board. These statutes establish that no person can threaten a water supply and that local water supply officials are responsible for protecting their water mains from connections that have the potential to allow the backflow of contaminants into their respective distribution systems. Further, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 602.115 gives the Illinois EPA authority to develop and modify “Agency” regulations regarding cross-connection control at community water supplies.

What happens if I do not fill out the survey?

All water customers are required to complete the survey. There are no penalties or fines for not completing the survey, however, we encourage everyone to complete the survey to assist the City in compiling accurate records so we can comply with IEPA cross-connection regulations. We thank you for your cooperation with this program.

For further information:

Department of Engineering and Utilities

217-228-4527