

Your local water supplier, in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 and the amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1986, enacted an ordinance which provides for a program preventing backflow and backsiphonage into the public water supply system.

### WHAT IS A CROSS-CONNECTION?

A plumbing cross-connection is defined as a connection between a public water supply and a source of contamination or pollution. In other words, a cross-connection makes it possible for contaminating material to enter into the drinking water supply when the pressure of the polluted source is greater than the pressure of the water supply. This can result in either a backsiphonage or backflow (a reversal in the normal direction of water flow).

### EXAMPLE

In August, 1978, a professional exterminator was treating a church located in a small town in South Carolina for termites. The highly toxic insecticide, chlordane, was being mixed with water in small buckets. Garden hoses were left submerged in the buckets while the mixing was being accomplished. At the same time, workers came by to disconnect the parsonage water line from the church to install a separate water meter for the parsonage. In the process, the water was shut off in the area of the church building. As the remaining water in the lines was used by residents in the area, the church experienced a negative pressure. The chlordane was quickly siphoned into the water lines within the church and became mixed with the Kool-Aid being prepared by women for the vacation bible school. Approximately a dozen children and three adults experienced dizziness and nausea. Fortunately, none required hospitalization.

Hopefully, your local water system will never have a backflow problem that could endanger the welfare of its citizens. However, because potential backflow problems exist, it is important for YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY to complete the following survey and return it to

\_\_\_\_\_ within \_\_\_\_\_ days.

If you have any questions, contact \_\_\_\_\_

at \_\_\_\_\_.

**FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN LOSS OF SERVICE**

## COMMERCIAL CROSS-CONNECTION SURVEY FORM

Meter or Billing Number \_\_\_\_\_

Customer Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date Completed \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE CHECK YOUR PLUMBING AND ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS

Is there a backflow preventer at this service? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ Don't know\_\_\_

Do you have a private well for drinking water, irrigation, or any other purpose? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

#### OTHER PUMPS:

Are there any pumps hooked to your plumbing? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

If yes, check all that apply:

Pressure booster\_\_\_ Boiler circulator\_\_\_ Fountain\_\_\_

Swimming pool/hot tub\_\_\_ Sewage\_\_\_ Other\_\_\_

### DO YOU HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING? (check all that apply)

Livestock waterers or tank fillers\_\_\_

Boilers or steam heat\_\_\_

Underground lawn sprinklers\_\_\_

Sink or tub with faucet below rim\_\_\_

Chemical sprayers that can be connected to garden hose\_\_\_

Faucets with hose connections? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

### DIRECT CONNECTIONS TO SEWER:

Water softener\_\_\_ Home water treatment\_\_\_ Heat pump\_\_\_

Plumbed in soft drink dispenser/bar carbonator\_\_\_ Ice Machine\_\_\_

Commercial type flush valve urinals or toilets\_\_\_ Bidet, bath or spa\_\_\_

Coils or water jackets used as heat exchangers\_\_\_

Chemical or lab facilities (includes home photography labs as well as all veterinary, farm and other chemical preparation facilities)\_\_\_

# ATTENTION ALL WATER USERS

Any other items or contaminants on your property which could be sucked back into the water system which you would not like to drink:

Please specify \_\_\_\_\_.

Do you understand the hazard of backflow to household members as well as to other water system customers when there is a sudden loss of pressure or negative pressure?

Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

Do you understand that only a state licensed person may repair or test backflow preventers? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

I would like an on-site evaluation of my property. Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

I understand these questions and have truthfully answered them to the best of my knowledge.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Fold on the dotted line and return to:*

UNDER NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
REGULATIONS TITLE 179 CHAPTER 22  
YOUR LOCAL WATER UTILITY IS REQUIRED  
TO CONDUCT AN ON-GOING PROGRAM  
FOR THE DETECTION AND ELIMINATION  
OF CROSS-CONNECTIONS

YOUR LOCAL UTILITY IS CONDUCTING  
THIS SURVEY TO ASSIST CUSTOMERS  
IN REPORTING POTENTIAL  
BACKFLOW HAZARDS  
AND TO COMPLY WITH  
THIS REGULATION

THIS MUST BE DONE AT LEAST  
EVERY FIVE YEARS

*This survey was conducted by your water system 5 years ago.  
If you completed this survey at your current residence at that time,  
and there have been no plumbing changes, sign below and return  
this survey. The last survey is still on file.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_