



Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection Control Glossary

Key Terminology & Definitions:

To facilitate understanding and communication within the field of Cross-Connection Control, it's essential to provide a glossary of key terminology and definitions. This glossary should cover terms related to Backflow Prevention, Cross-Connections, and water safety, making it a valuable reference for water system officials, personnel, and the community.

AIR GAP - The unobstructed vertical distance through the free atmosphere between the lowest opening from any pipe or faucet supplying water to a tank, plumbing fixture or other device and the flood level rim of the receptacle.

ASSE - American Society of Sanitary Engineering. ASSE International is a membership organization and leading product and personnel certification agency for companies and individuals representing all disciplines of the plumbing and mechanical industries. Michigan International Plumbing Code recognizes ASSE standards for plumbing products and Backflow Preventer testing/surveying associated with potable water plumbing systems.

BACKFLOW - The undesired reversal in the direction of flow of water in a plumbing system, caused by backpressure or back siphonage.

BACKFLOW PREVENTER - A Backflow Prevention Assembly, a Backflow Prevention Device or other means or method to prevent Backflow into the potable water supply.

BACK PRESSURE - The Backflow of potentially contaminated water into the potable water system because of the downstream side of the piping system pressure is greater than the supply pressure.

BACK SIPHONAGE - The Backflow of potentially contaminated water into the potable water system because of the pressure in the potable water system falling below atmospheric pressure of the plumbing fixtures, pools, tanks or vats connected to the potable water distribution piping.

CROSS-CONNECTION - Any actual or potential connection or arrangement between two otherwise separate piping systems, one containing potable water and the other containing an unknown liquid, steam, gas, solid, or chemical, whereby there exists the possibility for flow from one system to the other, with the direction of flow depending on the pressure differential between the two systems (see "Backflow").

CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM - A Program, or process to identify, control or eliminate Cross-Connections, and prevent Cross-Connections from allowing the Backflow of non-potable water into a potable water supply.

NONPOTABLE WATER - Water not safe for drinking, personal or culinary utilization.

POTABLE WATER - Water free from impurities present in amounts sufficient to cause disease or harmful physiological effects and conforming to the bacteriological and chemical quality requirements of the Public Health Service Drinking Water Standards or the regulations of the public health authority having jurisdiction.

WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM - The water service pipe, water distribution pipes, and the necessary connecting pipes, fittings, control valves and all appurtenances in or adjacent to the structure or premises.