



Cross Connection Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do I need an inspection?

The Detroit Water & Sewerage Department (DWSD) needs to inspect the inside and outside of your house or business to identify opportunities to improve your plumbing system by addressing cross connections to ensure you maintain the safety of your clean drinking water supply. **These free inspections are important to reduce the risk of backflows to protect the drinking water system and are a requirement of State of Michigan law and City of Detroit ordinance.**

What is a cross connection?

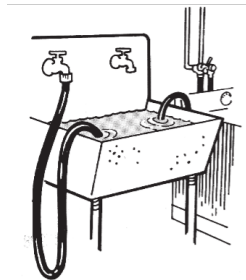
A cross connection is when private plumbing is at risk of clean drinking water mixing with sewage or chemicals. Examples of cross connections include:

Garden hose – If you attach a chemical weed-sprayer to the garden hose or you place the hose in a bucket full of soapy water, there is a risk the chemicals backflow into the hose then into your private plumbing.

Laundry tub – A hose connected from your laundry machine and submerged into a sink may allow backflow into the washing machine and your plumbing.

Boilers – A period of low pressure may cause the water in the boiler to backflow.

Sprinkler systems – Fertilizer and soils may backflow into the sprinkler heads.



What is a backflow preventer?

A backflow preventer is a device that stops sewage or chemicals from flowing back into the clean drinking water supply. Examples of backflow preventers are vacuum breakers and check valves. If the inspector verifies any cross connections, they will provide instructions on how to install devices to prevent backflows. As a courtesy provided by DWSD, the HydroCorp inspector will give you free backflow preventers for verified common cross connections, such as for garden hoses. You are responsible for completing the installation of the backflow preventer device(s).

Who will conduct the inspection?

DWSD contractor, HydroCorp, will conduct the inspection. HydroCorp employees will have a name badge that includes the DWSD logo. HydroCorp provides this same service in several other cities in Michigan and other states.

How much does the inspection cost?

This is a free inspection. As a courtesy, DWSD is paying for the inspection services and offering backflow preventers for common cross connections like garden hoses.

Why do I need to sign a form?

You will be asked to sign a form provided by the inspector to confirm the inspection has been completed. This documentation is required to ensure your house/business is within compliance standards. DWSD will include this information in its compliance report to the State of Michigan; however, no individual results or address-specific details will be shared.

For more information or to watch a video about cross connections, visit www.detroitmi.gov/protectyourwater.

Call 313-343-1768 to schedule your appointment today.