

New Cross-Connection Control Ordinance Fact Sheet

1. What is a cross-connection?

- Cross-connections are the links through which it is possible for contaminating materials to enter a potable water supply. The contaminant enters the potable water system when the pressure of the polluted source exceeds the pressure of the potable source. The action may be called backsiphonage or backflow.

2. Why are we doing this right now?

- The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is now requiring all governmental organizations who have water systems to implement a Cross-Connection Control Program in order to protect the water supply from pollutants. MDE may fine the Town until we implement the program.

3. How will this affect me?

- All properties in Town will be required to install a backflow prevention device immediately downstream of the water meter within **five years** from the date of enactment of this ordinance (**April 1, 2024**).

4. Do I need to obtain a Town permit?

- Yes. After installation, the backflow prevention device must be tested and approved by a certified backflow device tester. The tester must then complete the second page of the application (see attached), which certifies that the device is working properly.

5. Do I need to renew my permit?

- Yes. The Town considers residential uses low hazard and commercial and industrial uses high hazard unless determined otherwise by the Water Department.
 - **Low hazard uses:** Permits for low hazard uses shall be renewed every **ten years**.
 - **High hazard uses:** Permits for high hazard uses shall be renewed every **two years**.

6. How much will this cost me?

- **New installations** - Parts and labor should cost approximately \$100.00 to \$150.00 per backflow device. Staff suggests that property owners obtain two or three quotes before installation.
- **Re-inspections** – Labor should cost approximately \$60.00 - \$100.00. Costs will increase if the device needs to be repaired or replaced.
- **Town permits**
 - Low hazard properties are exempt from Town permitting fees.
 - High hazard properties must pay \$25.00 for new installations and \$15.00 for re-inspections.

7. Is there a penalty if I do not follow the new ordinance?

- Yes. The Town is required to turn-off the water to the properties that do not follow the ordinance.