

CROSS CONNECTION POLICY

A *cross connection* is the point at which a contaminated substance comes in contact with the drinking water system. The term *backflow* is used to mean any unwanted flow of used or non-potable water or substance from a domestic, industrial, or institutional piping system into the water distribution system. One of the ways to prevent backflow from occurring at the point of a cross-connection is to install a backflow prevention assembly.

As of August 31, 2004, any cross-connection to Aqua's water supply requires a permit. The permit needs to be completed in the business office of Aqua. A permit fee of \$25.00 will be charged when the permit is requested.

All cross-connections are required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to be protected by an adequate backflow prevention device. Any unprotected cross connection is a potential for contamination of the public water supply. Aqua is obligated by Texas law to protect the public water supply. If you have any questions as to whether a cross-connection exists, please call the office. Aqua will help you to determine if a cross-connection exists, and if so, what type of protection is required.

Upon installation of the backflow prevention assembly, a Backflow Prevention Assembly Test and Maintenance Report, required by TCEQ, must be completed, and submitted to Aqua. The test and report for the backflow prevention device are to be completed only by a Licensed Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester. A list of licensed testers may be obtained by contacting TCEQ.

TCEQ requires all cross-connections assessed as a health hazard to be tested each year. A notice will be mailed when it is time for the retest.

Any member that does not comply with proper testing requirements shall be subject to backflow testing by Aqua at the members' expense at \$150.00 per test. In the event a member refuses to allow such testing, Aqua will follow established TCEQ guidelines in dealing with the potential for contamination.