

Cross-Connection Control/Backflow Prevention General Information

What is cross-connection?

A cross-connection is any actual or potential connection between the public or consumer's potable water system and any non-potable source or substance that presents a hazard to the quality of the public or consumer's potable water system. Therefore, cross-connection control is the management or "control" of these cross-connections to protect public safety by preventing backflow incidents within the public or water consumer's potable water system.

What is backflow?

Typically, water will flow from the public water supply to the consumer's plumbing distribution system. Backflow is the undesirable reversal of this flow of water and undesirable substances from the non-potable source to the potable source.

Why do we need a cross-connection control/backflow prevention program?

As required by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Public Health (3701-29), every drinking water system must have a cross connection control program, more commonly known as a backflow prevention program. Backflow prevention is designed to protect the public water supply from contamination from non-drinkable sources. For this reason, the City of Willard created a cross-connection control program with the goal of ensuring the quality of supplied water and protecting water customers.

Administering the Program

Backflow Solutions, Inc. or BSI Online is North America's leading cross-connection control/backflow data management and program administration firm. BSI Online has partnered with over 550 water purveyors to develop and manage effective cross-connection control programs to help protect all our water resources. BSI helps water purveyors by sending notifications, assists with customer service inquiries, and manages required data on behalf of the City of Willard.

City of Willard has contracted with BSI Online to assist the City of Willard with State required cross-connection/backflow tracking regulations. BSI Online will serve as the primary point of contact for the program and can be contacted below:

- **Testing Company Support:**
 - Phone: 800-414-4990
 - Fax: 888-414-4990
 - Email: bsionline@backflow.com
 - Website: <https://bsionline.com>



- **Water Customer Support:**
 - Phone: 888-966-6050
 - Email: support@backflow.com

External Resources

BSI Backflow Academy - <https://backflow.com/backflow-academy/>

University of Southern California Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research (USC FCCCHR) - <https://fccchr.usc.edu/>

American Backflow Prevention Association (ABPA) - <https://www.abpa.org>

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Cross-Connection Control Manual -
https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-09/documents/epa816r03002_0.pdf

American Water Works Association (AWWA) M14 Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection Control -
<https://www.awwa.org/portals/0/files/publications/documents/m14lookinside.pdf>

