**What Is a Cross Connection?**

According to the U.S. EPA a Cross Connection is defined as “Any actual or potential connection between the public water supply and a source of contamination or pollution.”

**What is a Cross Connection Control Survey?**

A Cross Connection Control Survey is the review of the internal plumbing system to determine the existence of potential or actual cross connections and to assess the degree of hazards of protected and unprotected cross-connections.

**Is this Cross Connection Control Survey Required?**

MADEP Regulation 310CMR 22.22 (3)(b)(4)(c) requires public water systems to “inspect and survey of all industrial, commercial, and institutional premises served by the public water system to determine if a cross connection exists and that all cross connections are properly protected by an appropriate device or eliminated.”

**What is Backflow?**

Backflow is the undesired reversal of normal flow caused by a pressure differential in your piping system. There are two types of Backflow.

**What are the two types of Backflow?**

The two types of Backflow are Backsiphonage and Backpressure Backflow. Backsiphonage results from a negative pressure in the piping that creates a vacuum, which in turn can draw non-potable in reverse into your drinking water system. Distribution pressure changes caused by events such as water main breaks or hydrant flushing can cause the pressure in your system to go negative or sub-atmospheric. Backpressure Backflow is reversal of flow due to increased pressure in the down-stream piping system. Thermal expansion or a booster pump in the system can increase the pressure the plumbing system.

**Why do cross connections exist?**

Cross Connections exist for many reasons. Many people do not know the inherent dangers of cross connections when they install plumbing themselves. Cross connections are created more so due to convenience without the regards to danger that might be created.

A MA licensed Cross Connection Control Surveyor is required to perform the survey. This individual will inspect the internal plumbing system to find cross connections and report findings to owner or representative of the facility. If there are unprotected cross connections, the owner of the facility must hire a licensed plumber to correct the cross connection(s).

For details on NEWWA’s backflow and cross connection programs visit newwa.org.