

LOCAL NEWS BRIEF

WATER USE SURVEY

GALESBURG – The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) requires every water supplier to develop and implement a comprehensive cross connection control (backflow) program for the elimination of existing cross connections and prevention or protection from all future cross connections. Regulations are in place to protect our drinking water systems

Backflow preventers and/or potentially hazardous connections may be found at any number of locations on your water systems. Typically, most commercial customers will have backflow preventers just after the water meter and also on wet fire protection systems. They may also have lawn irrigation systems which require backflow protection. Note too, that there may be other water connections throughout commercial or industrial facilities that also require backflow protection.

Residential backflow preventers may exist or be required on lawn irrigation systems, wet fire protections systems, hot water heating (boiler) systems, swimming pool fills, water features, etc. Backflow preventers may also be required if there is another water source on the site such as a well, pond, river, etc.

Backflow preventers are the property of the water customer and the responsibility lies with the customer for annual testing and maintenance. The water customer must contract with a licensed tester to perform the required annual tests and any necessary repairs. Most local plumbers are certified to test backflow preventers.

One requirement of the IEPA required program is to **conduct a survey** of all water customers every few years. Galesburg water customers will receive a survey notification in the mail soon, if not already.

Please simply follow the directions on the survey notification for completion of the short questionnaire. There is no cost and it takes only a few moments to complete. Surveys should be completed within 30 days of receipt of the notice.

Galesburg's backflow program contractor is Aqua Backflow from Elgin, IL. They specialize in cross connection control program management. Note that as part of the program, and/or if you have or require backflow protection, you may be notified for compliance (testing, repairs, or installations) by Aqua Backflow. Contact them at 847-742-2296 or info@AquaBackflow.com with any questions.

Galesburg's Cross Connection Control Program is designed to safeguard public health. We ask for your cooperation with our program, its enforcement, and any requests for information that comes from Aqua Backflow or utility staff.