

Overview of the Program

In order to protect the drinking water in the water distribution system from any contamination, the Southington Water Department is required by State of CT Dept of Public Health to maintain a Cross Connection program. The Southington Water Department determines if cross connections exist and if they do, that they are maintained and have the proper protective device installed.

The Cross-Connection program consists of two sections, testing of backflow preventers, and survey inspections.



Cross Connection (Survey) Inspection

The Cross-Connection inspection is the first step in the program. The Southington Water Department is notified and made aware of any commercial, industrial, institutional, and residential facilities that are being built. Our Cross-Connection inspector goes to the location and conducts an inspection to determine if any backflow preventers are needed at the location, or if the location needs to be inspected annually or every 5 years. The inspection is a walk through of the water system in the building or property, starting from the water meter looking at any fixtures, tools, or machines that use domestic water and ending at the last free flowing tap. This inspection is at no charge to the owner or tenant. After the inspection is conducted, the inspector will have a form they fill out describing any violations or corrections needed to the owner or tenant. Some inspections may take just a few minutes as others may take several days, depending on the complexity of the location being inspected. The State of CT Public Health Code regulations stated in section 19-13-B37 and 19-13-B39 requires the Southington Water Department to perform an inspection at these facilities.

Cross Connection Device Testing

Device testing is the second part of the cross-connection program. Any testable backflow preventers are required by the State of CT Public Health Code Regulations 19-13-B38A to be tested annually. Depending on the device being tested, check valves and relief valves open or close to prevent any back pressure or back siphonage of water back into the drinking water system. The inspector tests these devices using a differential pressure gauge that has hose hook ups that connect to test ports of each device being tested. There is a sequence of steps the inspector conducts on the device and certain pressures on the gauge must be met to ensure the device is working properly. Overtime some devices may have the internal parts wear out and allow contaminants back into the drinking



water, the backflow test will then ensure that the device is in a failed state. The inspector will allow a certain time period to have the device repaired or replaced. Most devices on the market have repair kits available.

Any further questions on backflow devices please refer to (common testable backflow preventers) on the front page.