

Council Policy No.:	CP2021-007 (formerly CP2018-003)
Council Policy Name:	Water System Cross Connection Control Policy
Date Approved by Council:	January 30, 2018
Date revision approved by Council:	April 20, 2021 CW2021-095/CR2021-195
Related SOP, Management Directive, Council Policy, Forms	Water System Cross-Connection Control Management Directive

Policy Statement and Rationale:

The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes (City) has developed a Water System Cross-Connection Control Program for the purpose of eliminating, mitigating, and/or reducing the risk of contaminating the City’s municipal drinking water system due to backflow caused by industrial, commercial, and institutional (ICI) properties. This is considered part of the City’s larger commitment to provide safe and reliable drinking water as per our Quality Management System Policy.

Scope:

This Policy applies to all new and existing ICI properties connected to, or wishing to connect to, the City of Kawartha Lakes municipal drinking water systems that are determined to have a moderate to high risk of causing a backflow event.

Definitions

“**Backflow**” means the flowing back of or reversal of the normal direction of flow of water;

“**Backflow Prevention Device (BPD)**” means a device that prevents back-pressure or back-siphonage into the water system and is designed to prevent contamination of the water supply. It can also be referred to as a Cross-Connection Prevention Device;

“City”, “City of Kawartha Lakes” or “Kawartha Lakes” means The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes, including its entire geographic area, and includes its Officers, Directors, employees and agents;

“Commercial” means lands, buildings or structures or any part thereof used, designed or intended to facilitate the buying or selling of commodities or services, including those that relate to self-service and other storage facilities, hotels, inns, motels and boarding, lodging, rooming houses and recreational lodging and all those that are non-residential in nature but excluded from all other types of non-residential land, structures and buildings otherwise defined herein;

“Cross-connection” means any actual or potential connection between the waterworks and any source of pollution, contamination, or other material or substance that could change the quality of the water in the waterworks. This includes any bypass, jumper connection, removable section of pipe, swivel or changeover device, and any other temporary or permanent connecting arrangement through which backflow can occur. Individual protection would be installed on fixtures or appliances that have the potential of contributing to a cross connection;

“Industrial” means lands, buildings or structures or any part thereof used, designed or intended for manufacturing, processing, fabricating, electricity generation, assembly of raw goods, warehousing or bulk storage of goods, and includes office uses and the sale of commodities to the general public where such uses are accessory to an industrial use, but does not include the sale of commodities to the general public through a warehouse club;

“Institutional” means lands, buildings or structures or any part thereof used by any non-profit organization, group or association for the promotion of charitable, educational or benevolent objectives, and includes post-secondary institutions, nursing homes and non-profit clubs;

“Owner” means a person who has any right, title, estate, or interest in a property, other than that of only an occupant and, where that person is a corporation, shall include the officers, directors and shareholders of that corporation, and shall include any person with authority or power over or control of that property on the behalf of an owner. A developer is also included as an owner;

“Potable water” means water that is safe for human drinking and/or cooking as described by the Safe Drinking Water Act;

“Premise isolation” means the Backflow prevention devices are installed just within the facility on the service line connection of the potable water supply;

“Qualified Person” refer to S.4.0 of the Water System Cross-Connection Control Management Directive;

Policy:

1. General Principles

- 1.1. All ICI properties deemed to present a moderate to severe hazard and are connected to the City's potable water supply require a Backflow Prevention Device to achieve premise isolation. The specific device required will be determined through the properties hazard rating. The properties' hazard ratings are defined under the Ontario Building Code, O. Reg 163/24.
 - a. **Severe hazard** – any type of potential or actual cross-connection involving water that has additives or substances that under any concentration can create a danger to public health.
 - b. **Moderate hazard** – any connections involving water where the aesthetic qualities of water have been reduced and, under certain conditions, can create a danger to health.
 - c. **Minor Hazard** – any type of potential or actual cross-connection that involves a substance that does not have the ability to affect health but may be aesthetically objectionable in terms of taste, odour, and/or colour.
- 1.2. All Backflow Prevention Devices that are installed, inspected, tested, or removed, must be performed by a Qualified Person.
- 1.3. No connections may bypass the Backflow Prevention Device(s).
- 1.4. The City reserves the right to refuse water supply to new and existing water services that do not comply with By-law 2021-162 "**A By-law to Regulate Water and Wastewater Services in the City of Kawartha Lakes**" (as amended) and the Ontario Building Code.

2. The Water and Wastewater Division's Responsibilities

- 2.1. Assigning hazard ratings to all ICI properties based on activities.
- 2.2. Administration and enforcement of the Water System Cross-Connection Control Program as per this policy and affiliated documents such as By-law 2021-162 and the Water System Cross-Connection Control Management Directive.
- 2.3. Maintaining a list of Qualified Backflow Prevention Device testers ("Qualified Persons").
- 2.4. Creating, maintaining, and eliciting records from property owners and Qualified Persons.

2.5. The maintenance and testing of backflow preventers at City operated Water and Wastewater facilities.

2.6. The promotion of the Water System Cross-Connection Control Program and fostering awareness of program by educating owners about the risks and hazards associated with backflow contamination, particularly owners that require higher degrees of backflow prevention devices due to increased risk to the City's water supply.

Revision History:

Proposed Date of Review:

Revision	Date	Description of Changes	Requested By
0.0	30/01/2018	Initial Release	
1.0	April 20, 2021	Updated Policy Number	Council
2.0	October 21, 2025	Policy Confirmed and Renewed	Council