

RE: Residential Cross-Connection Survey

Dear Lake Sara Area Water Customer:

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) requires water suppliers to provide safe, potable water to its customers at all times. The Lake Sara Area Water Cooperative, Inc. is required to implement an active cross-connection control program. A cross-connection is any situation that allows a potable (safe) water source and a non-potable (contaminated) water source the opportunity to come into contact with each other. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Department of Public Health are responsible for ensuring that cross-connections do not occur through the enforcement of cross-connection control regulations. A cross-connection between potable and non-potable water sources may cause anything from contamination of plumbing to sickness and even death in consumers.

The first step in implementing an approved program is the passage of an ordinance that is then submitted for approval by the IEPA. This ordinance has been passed and has been approved by the IEPA.

The second step in the program is a survey of all customers served by our public water supply. Enclosed is a survey that we hope you will complete and return to Lake Sara Area Water Cooperative by _____. Simply mark all plumbing fixtures that you have in your home or business. If you have other fixtures that are not listed please describe in the "Other" spaces.

After we receive your survey we will review the data and determine if an inspection of your plumbing is needed. If it requires an inspection you will be notified by mail.

These surveys are **REQUIRED** by the IEPA and must be completed. If the Lake Sara Area Water Cooperative does not receive your completed survey by the above-stated date the Lake Sara Area Water Cooperative will contact you for a date at which time Lake Sara Area Water Cooperative personnel will conduct the survey.

To maintain compliance with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Regulations, you are now required to identify the type of material of the service line from the meter to the residence.

We thank you for your cooperation on this matter. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call the office at 342-9658.

Regards

LAKE SARA AREA WATER COOPERATIVE, INC.

Robert Huey, Jr.

Robert Huey, Jr., President

RH/co

Enclosures

*FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CROSS-CONNECTION
(NEXT PAGE)*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL

What is a Cross Connection?

A cross-connection is a link or channel that allows a potable (safe) water source in your home to come in contact with a non-potable (contaminated) water source, such as dirty water from washing machines, swimming pools, or water containing dangerous chemicals and pesticides.

What is backflow?

Backflow occurs when the public water system experiences a drop in water pressure. During this drop, the water flow can be reversed, and water and other chemicals can flow back through a pipe or hose – and into the public water system. As the system returns to normal, this contaminated water may flow out to another location.

What are some of the sources of contamination?

- Home areas with plumbing fixtures, kitchens, bathrooms, basements.
- Private wells, lakes, or cisterns.
- Restaurants, bottling plants, hospitals, fire systems, laboratories, etc.
- Commercial properties, yard hydrants, swimming pools, golf courses.

What can cause backflow to occur?

- Any drop in pressure, whether by accident or by a brief interruption of service.
- Opening a fire hydrant
- A broken pipe in network
- Equipment that works at above normal water pressure.

What are the purposes of the Cross-Connection Control Program?

1. To protect the public water supply system from contamination or pollution by isolating the customers water system from contaminants or pollutants which could backflow through the service connection into the public water supply system.
2. To promote the elimination or control of existing cross-connections, actual or potential, between the public or customer's potable water system and non-potable water systems, plumbing fixtures and sources or systems contaminating substances of unknown or questionable quality.
3. To provide for the maintenance of a continuing program of cross-connection control which will prevent the contamination or pollution of the public and customer's potable water system.

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How can my family be affected?

The most common ailment suffered by those drinking contaminated water is upset stomach-similar to flu symptoms. The Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia and the Environmental Protection Agency have documented cases of the following illnesses in connection with contaminated drinking water: Brucellosis, campylobacter, chemical poisoning, cholera, diarrhea, enteritis, dysentery, giardiasis, hepatitis, hookworm, legionella, paratyphoid fever, polio and typhoid.

What can be done to prevent contamination?

- Backflow prevention devices can be installed on the internal plumbing system.
- Never leave hoses with the open end submerged, such as in a swimming pool, or a laundry tub.
- Don't clean out a clogged sewer with a garden hose.
- Don't leave hoses connected to a garden chemical sprayer.
- Water in bathtubs and sinks should not rise above faucet level.

**LAKE SARA AREA WATER COOPERATIVE, INC.
CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL SURVEY
Return Completed Survey to "LSAWC", P.O. Box 874, Effingham, IL 62401**

RESIDENTIAL

The following form is to be used by water department personnel and/or by customers of the **LAKE SARA AREA WATER COOPERATIVE, INC.** Data from this form may be used to determine if the property should be inspected by a licensed plumber with a CCCDI certification to detect and correct any cross-connections found on the property.

Signature of Person Conducting Survey: _____

Name of Person (Please Print): _____ Date: _____

Service Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Cell Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

*****(All contact information is used for emergency purposes only.)***

Residency: Full-time Part-time

Faucet: Outside Faucet with Anti-siphon Type (*round cap on top of faucet*)
 Outside Faucet (*without round cap on top of faucet*)
 Outdoor Yard Hydrant (*one that is standing upright in the ground*)

Exterior: Lawn Irrigation System (Portable) (Permanent) None
 Lawn Fertilizer System
Are chemicals used or mixed on the premises? YES NO

Other: Hot Water Heater Utility/Laundry Sink Hot Tub
 Washing Machine Swimming Pool

Water Sources (other than Lake Sara):

 Pond Lake (other than Lake Sara) Cistern Well
Is/Are private well, pond, lake, cistern or reclaimed physically connected to water system?
 YES NO

RPZ Valve/Back Flow Prevention Device: (Used for irrigation, etc.) (See inside pamphlet middle column)

Do you have back flow prevention device installed? YES NO
If so, has the device been tested? YES NO

****List the manufacturer, model, type, and serial number for each device installed on the premises.
Where is the device located? (Be specific).**

***** **FOR WATER DEPARTMENT USE ONLY** *****

After reviewing the data on this form it is my recommendation that:

 The plumbing system serving the above described property should be inspected for cross connections by a
_____ properly certified plumber/CCCDI Inspector
 The plumbing system serving the above described property does not pose a threat to the public safety and no
_____ inspection is ordered.

Dated this _____ day of _____, _____

Signature/Title of Person Making Above Determination: _____