

New Cross-Connection Control Ordinance RESIDENTIAL / LOW HAZARD Fact Sheet

1. What is a cross-connection?

- Cross-connections are the links through which it is possible for contaminating materials to enter a potable water supply. The contaminant enters the potable water system when the pressure of the polluted source exceeds the pressure of the potable source. The action may be called backsiphonage or backflow.

2. Why are we doing this right now?

- The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is now requiring all governmental organizations who have water systems implement a Cross-Connection Control Program in order to protect the water supply from pollutants. MDE may fine the Town until we implement the program.
- **Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.04.01.32 states that:**
 - A. Suppliers of water to community water systems existing before January 1, 1986, shall prepare and submit for approval to the Approving Authority by January 1, 1988, a plan for controlling cross connections. For community water systems constructed after January 1, 1988, the supplier of water shall prepare and submit for approval a plan for controlling cross connections with the plans and specifications required under Regulation .05 of this chapter or within 3 months following start-up of the water system if a construction permit has already been issued by the Approving Authority.*
 - B. Following receipt of approval by the Approving Authority for the cross connection control program submitted in compliance with §A, of this regulation, including any amendment required by the Approving Authority, the supplier of water shall implement the approved plan.*

More information can be found in the [Sec. 26.04.01.32. Cross Connection code](#).

3. How will this affect me?

- All residential low-hazard properties in Town will be required to install a backflow prevention device immediately downstream of the water meter within **five years** from the date of enactment of this ordinance (**April 1, 2024**).

4. Do I need to obtain a Town permit?

- Yes. A certified backflow device plumber must install the backflow prevention device. The plumber must then complete a Town permit application (see attached), which certifies that the device was installed and is working properly.

5. Do I need to renew my permit?

- Yes. Permits for low hazard uses shall be renewed every **ten years**.

6. How much will this cost me?

- At their meeting held on July 1, 2019, the Board of Commissioners approved Kelco Plumbing & Backhoe Services, LLC. as the Town's approved residential low-hazard backflow preventer contractor. You may schedule an installation appointment by calling Kelco at 240-288-7061 or by email at KelcoPlumbingLLC2@gmail.com. A **FREE** permit must be obtained from the Town after the device is installed. Kelco's installation prices are as follows:

Installation Dates:	07/1/2019 – 06/30/2021	07/1/2021 – 06/30/2023	07/01/2023 – 06/30/2025
Installation Price:	\$162.00	\$172.00	\$180.00

****No property owner is required to use this company. The Town's approval is not a guarantee or warranty regarding the quality of the work that may eventually be done, and that the Town is not liable for any errors or omissions that may occur in the course of any work the plumber may do. The listed price is for standard installation. If there is any additional work that needs to be completed then the price is subject to change.**

7. Is there a penalty if I do not follow the new ordinance?

- Yes. The Town is required to turn-off the water to the properties that do not follow the ordinance.