

West Bloomfield Township is required under Public Act 399, Part 14, to maintain a cross connection control program to identify and eliminate any possible connections that could contaminate the public water system. The Township has implemented a program for its commercial and industrial customers for a number of years; however, in order to fully comply with this State mandate, we must now include residential customers as part of this program. The Township has contracted with HydroCorp of Troy, MI to assist with facilitating this program.

The residential program consists of both inspections of the exterior of homes and periodic testing of backflow prevention assemblies, which are typically found on lawn irrigation systems. These devices are installed on plumbing systems to ensure contaminated water or other substances cannot be introduced to the home or the public water supply.

The majority of backflow preventers that have been required to date are simple vacuum breakers that can be purchased for \$5-\$15 typically and attach to the end of an outside hose spigot. Based upon our inspections to date, a small percentage of homes have been identified as having improperly installed backflow preventers on the lawn irrigation system. In these cases, the resident will need assistance from a licensed contractor in order to make the necessary improvements. If the backflow preventer on the lawn irrigation system is installed properly, it still needs to be tested to ensure it operates according to the manufactures specifications. Improperly installed or malfunctioning backflow preventers on underground irrigation systems could allow fertilizers, pesticides, animal waste and other potentially harmful substances to be siphoned or “sucked” back into the homes drinking water under certain circumstances.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) requires any connection that could potentially cause a risk to life, health or property must be in compliance with State codes and regulations. These safety precautions are in place to protect the quality of water that the Township is delivering to its residents.

If you received a door knocker for the installation of an outside hose spigot and you installed an anti-frost hose bibb vacuum breaker, you may submit a picture of your installation for approval by clicking on the following link: www.hydrocorpinc.com/municipality. Complete the form to submit a picture of your new backflow device(s). Once your picture(s) have been reviewed and approved you will be placed in compliance.

Thank you for assisting us with protecting our water supply! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact HydroCorp by phone 248.250.5000. For additional information regarding the program please visit their website at www.hydrocorpinc.com/resources/faq.