

## **CROSS CONNECTION POLICY**

A cross connection is the point at which a contaminated substance comes in contact with the drinking water system. The term backflow is used to mean any unwanted flow of used or non-potable water or substance from a domestic, industrial, or institutional piping system into the water distribution system. One of the ways to prevent backflow from occurring at the point of a cross connection is to install a backflow prevention assembly.

All cross connections are required by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to be protected by an adequate backflow prevention device. Any unprotected cross connection is a potential for contamination of the public water supply. El Oso is obligated by Texas law to protect the public water supply. If you have any question as to whether a cross connection exists please call the office. El Oso will help you to determine if a cross connection exists, and if so, what type of protection is required.

Upon installation of the backflow prevention assembly, a Backflow Prevention Assembly test and Maintenance Report, required by TCEQ, must be completed and submitted to El Oso. The test and report for the backflow prevention device are to be completed only by a Licensed Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester.

TCEQ requires all cross connections assessed as a health hazard to be tested each year. El Oso will send out notices when it is time for the retest.

El Oso will follow established TCEQ guidelines in dealing with the potential for contamination to any member that does not comply with the proper testing requirements.