

University of Delaware
Environmental Health and Safety Protocol

Section: General Health and Safety

Protocol Name: Protection of Potable Water Supply

Origination Date: August 29, 1988

Revisions: April 1996, January 2006, April 2015, November 2015, February 2019

Protocol Number: G-07

I. SCOPE OF PROTOCOL

This protocol addresses the protection of campus potable water systems and applies to all University facilities.

II. DEFINITIONS

A. Potable water

1. Water that is intended for or could be used for human consumption, the preparation of food, or the cleaning of cooking and serving surfaces.

B. Contaminants

1. Substances that could produce toxic or noxious conditions, taste, odor or discoloration in the potable water system.

C. Cross-Connection

- a. A physical connection between potable and non-potable water systems.

D. Backflow Preventer

- a. A physical plumbing connection, often containing one or more check valves or air gaps, designed to prevent the flow of non-potable water into a potable water system due to loss of pressure in the potable water system

III. PROTOCOL STATEMENT

- A. Potable water supply systems shall be designed, installed and maintained in such a manner as to prevent the contamination of the water through cross-connections or any other piping connections to the system.
- B. The Project Planning and Design Department shall ensure that design standards for new facilities and renovations comply with this protocol.
- C. The Facilities Building Management and Operations Department shall ensure facilities are maintained in accordance with this protocol and shall perform regularly scheduled testing of backflow prevention devices.
- D. Unit administrators shall ensure compliance with this protocol and ensure violations are corrected.
- E. Unit administrators shall ensure the provisions of this protocol are communicated to employees and students.
- F. Laboratory supervisors and faculty shall ensure all laboratory equipment and processes are operated in compliance with this protocol.
- G. Removing or tampering with building backflow preventers is a violation of Protocol 2-17, "Facility Systems".

IV. PROTOCOL STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

- A. All new and renovated potable water systems shall comply with the most current IBC plumbing code, the most current plumbing code adopted by the City of Newark, the most current standards of the American Society of Sanitary Engineering, and the University of Delaware's Design Standards as maintained by Project Planning and Design.
- B. Piping which has been used for any purpose other than conveying potable water shall not be used for conveying potable water.
- C. Any equipment or machinery that is supplied with potable water must have a backflow preventer installed on supply line upstream of the equipment or machinery.
- D. Any sink faucet, including lab sinks, mop stations, and hose bibs, not equipped with a backflow preventer shall maintain an air gap of at least 1" between the discharge of the faucet and any potential source of non-potable water.

For more information regarding this policy, contact the Department of Environmental Health and Safety 302-831-8475