



BACKFLOW PREVENTION

Cross-Connection Control Handbook

FEBCO[®]

A Brief History of Cross-Connection Control

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Man has long recognized the need for pure drinking water, but only in the last 50 or 60 years has there been any real effort to prevent contamination caused by cross-connections.

Although double check valves came into use around the turn of the century to isolate fire mains and industrial water lines from the potable water supply, little interest was shown in the individual treatment of plumbing fixtures.

In 1929 the major breakthrough came when a device consisting of two check valves with a relief valve between them was successfully tested in Danville, Illinois. However, this valve was not produced commercially and it was not until the late 1930's that the real development of effective vacuum breakers and backflow preventers took place.

It was in this period that ordinances for cross-connection control began to be enforced. The Safe Drinking Water Act, signed into law by President Ford, placed more emphasis on the responsibility for drinking water protection.

The need for cross-connection control exists in all types of premises, whether industrial or residential. Backflow prevention devices help protect the public safety by preventing potable water contamination in such critical areas as municipal water systems, food processing plants, medical and dental water supplies, and many industrial applications.

An informative booklet, for the purpose of a better dissemination of the facts about potential hazards to public health through backflow contamination.

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