

## Plumbing Practice Note BP-02: Toilet seat douches

This Practice Note provides guidance to practitioners on backflow requirements when installing toilet seat douches.

The content below provides guidance on:

- Previous installation requirements
- Current installation requirements



For guidance on the plumbing regulatory framework, refer to Plumbing Practice Note BP-01 Backflow Prevention – Regulatory framework

### Abbreviations & Definitions

The abbreviations and definitions set out below are for guidance only. They are not intended to vary those set out in the Building Act 1993 or the Plumbing Regulations 2018.

- **AS** – Australian Standard
- **AS/NZS** – Australian / New Zealand Standard
- **NCC** – National Construction Code 2019 – Volume Three
- **Regulations** – Plumbing Regulations 2018
- **WMTS** – WaterMark Technical Specification

### Previous installation requirements

The technical advice team have had many enquiries concerning the backflow requirements when installing a toilet seat douche and have provided the following advice in the past.

Clause 6 of the WaterMark Technical Specification (WMTS):051:2016 - Bidet douche seats, required the manufacturers to provide a label stating: "This douche seat is supplied with a backflow protection device complying with AS/NZS 3500.1. No further backflow prevention is required for connection to the water supply". Clause 8.3 of the WMTS 051: 2016, specifies the douche seat shall be supplied with a low hazard mechanical backflow prevention device complying with AS/NZS 3500.1.

The VBA have allowed toilet seat douches that are certified through WMTS:051:2016 to be installed under the above conditions without the need for additional backflow protection.



## Current installation requirements

Changes to the WMTS-051 in 2021 have removed the above requirements and refers to National Construction Code Volume Three (NCC), for installation requirements.

The NCC under cross-connection control considers toilet seat douches to be a high hazard to the potable/drinking water supply which means a high hazard backflow prevention device needs to be installed on toilet seat douches.

When installing a toilet seat douche the water supply must be protected using a high hazard backflow prevention device, or where multiple toilet seat douches are installed the water supply can be protected by a zone device with dedicated lines to all toilet seat douches on the property.



In some jurisdictions, regulations issued under water supply legislation, and/or rules set by a Network Utility Operator, may prescribe containment protection which differs from this Specification.

If this occurs, then those regulations and/or rules should be followed in place of this Specification. This Specification only applies for the purposes of compliance with Volume Three of the NCC. It is not intended to limit or extend the application of other regulations.

## Related Documentation

- National Construction Code 2019 - Volume Three
- AS/NZS 3500.1:2018 – Plumbing and drainage – Part 1: Water services
- WMTS-051:2016 - Bidet douche seats
- WMTS-051:2021 - Bidet douche seats
- <https://watermark.abcb.gov.au/>

## Version History

- Version 1, published 1 August 2022, this is a new practice note.

## Contact Us

If you have a technical enquiry, please email [plumbingtechnicaladvice@vba.vic.gov.au](mailto:plumbingtechnicaladvice@vba.vic.gov.au) or call 1300 815 127.

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