

Handheld sprays and water points adjacent to water closets

All water points installed adjacent to a water closet (and not connected to a sanitary fixture) must be protected by a high hazard backflow prevention device.

This is a requirement under clause 12 of schedule 2 of the *Plumbing Regulations 2018*.

Background

Water supply systems must be installed in such a way that they prevent contamination of the drinking water supply. Drinking water contamination can be caused by the unintended and dangerous backflow of water from a polluted water source into the drinking water supply due to back-pressure or back-siphonage.

To prevent cross-connection, all devices connected to a drinking water supply system must have appropriate backflow protection. This is a requirement of the Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA).

Handheld sprays have the potential to be positioned below the rim of a water closet pan and, if subject to back-siphonage, could contaminate the drinking water supply. Due to this potential hazard, handheld sprays require high hazard backflow protection.

How the requirements work in practice

Water points installed adjacent to water closets may be used for the future connection of a handheld spray, even if a spray is not connected immediately. Because of this possibility, all water points installed adjacent to water closets must now be protected with a high hazard backflow prevention device.

Water connections to a bidet, bidette and toilet seat douche spray, must be installed in compliance with the PCA.

Interconnection of a flexible hose to the water supply of a WC cistern is not permitted, unless it is protected by a high hazard backflow device.

Furthermore, recycled water cannot be used for personnel hygiene purposes.

Hose taps adjacent to urinals in public toilets (as required by the PCA) do not require a backflow prevention device.

Additional information can also be found in sections 4 & 12 of AS/NZS 3500.1.

Note: *Plumbing practitioners should also consult with the relevant Water Authority regarding requirements for containment protection.*



High hazard backflow devices are required on both hot and cold water supply. Note the backflow device is not shown in the above photo.

Want to know more?

If you have a technical enquiry, please email plumbingtechnicaladvice@vba.vic.gov.au or call 1300 815 127.

Victorian Building Authority
733 Bourke Street, Docklands VIC 3008

www.vba.vic.gov.au