



Chemical-Soap Dispenser Protection Policy

Town of Tewksbury DPW
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This policy applies to facilities utilizing Chemical-Soap Dispensers. All existing and new installations shall meet the following requirements.

As provided in the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, (Public Law 93-523), and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations, 310 CMR 22.22, the water purveyor has the primary responsibility for preventing water from unapproved sources or any other substances from entering the public water system. The Board of State Examiners of Plumbing and Gas Fitters on May 27, 2009 at its regularly scheduled meeting voted to allow installations of “Chemical Dispensers” with the following conditions:

1. These Dispensers shall be installed by a Massachusetts Licensed Plumber.
2. The installations shall be hard piped using product approved materials.
3. The Public Water Suppliers shall be contacted regarding the proper backflow prevention device to be installed.
4. The “TEXT” contained in the above conditions (1 through 3) must be inserted in the manufacturer’s installations instruction manual.

As delegated by laws and regulations the Town of Tewksbury is responsible for the protection of the public potable water supply distribution system from the contamination or pollution due to backflow or back-siphonage of contaminants or pollutants. Recent cross-connection control surveys throughout numerous facilities in the Town have shown that a large number of Chemical Dispensers are unprotected against backflow or incorrectly installed. Moreover frequent or possible changes of dispenser types based on vendor and/or customer requirements are not always linked to proper backflow protections. Based on the above regulations and as a result of maintenance practices in facilities, **the Town has determined that:**

Chemical-Soap dispensing units shall be isolated against Backflow caused by Back-Siphonage or Back-Pressure by the use of a Reduced Pressure Backflow Preventer on the make-up water connections upstream of any and all dispensing units. A dedicated line to multiple is acceptable if all dispensers on the dedicated line serve a similar purpose i.e. food prep/cleaning. All dedicated lines must be marked as non-potable and accessible for inspection. Chemical-Soap Dispensing units shall be installed by a Massachusetts Licensed Plumber and connected with a separate water connection using product approved materials (hard piped) and not be connected to a faucet, sink tap, or atmospheric vacuum breaker. Dispensers can be connected with stainless steel braided hose after the Reduced Pressure Backflow Preventer as an alternative to hard pipe.

Questions or concerns can be directed toward the Cross-Connection Coordinator.