

SharePoint FAQ

Question - When splitters are encountered on a campground water supply outlet, where is the proper location to place backflow preventer(s)?

Properly installed Tee with backflow devices.



An example of a splitter.



Answer- After consulting with the Plumbing Section of the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS), the answer to the question is that a backflow device is to be located on the water supply line hose bib and the splitter(s) needs to be removed.

Splitters:

- Are not an approved plumbing product (and may not be made of approved materials),
- Were not part of the approved plumbing plans,
- Can potentially create cross connections,
- Can possibly cause backflow devices to malfunction.

Transition from splitters to tees. The Plumbing Section of DSPS, FSRL and campground operators acknowledge that the use of splitters is wide spread in campgrounds across Wisconsin. To meet camper demand for more water supply outlets, DSPS's recommendation is that campground operators begin to add tees to the end of their plumbing lines. Adding tees with multiple single point connections that can be fitted with backflow devices will be a plumbing code compliant solution to meet the demands for more water supply outlets. DSPS requires that licensed plumbers be used when tees are added.

FSRL anticipates that the process of replacing splitters with tees will take time. As you perform campground inspections this summer, discuss splitter use with your campground operators, including

the fact that splitters can potentially create cross connections and/or cause backflow devices to malfunction. Encourage operators to begin to install tees and to work with their campers on removing splitters that the campers have installed. FSRL recommends that you have your operators contact their area DSPS Plumbing Consultant if they have specific questions, however; FSRL does not recommend that you refer splitter use to Plumbing Consultants for follow up enforcement. DSPS has four Plumbing Consultants to cover the entire state and they would not have the capacity to follow up in every campground that has splitters installed at water service connections.

Enforcement process. When splitters are found, they shall be written as a violation of DHS 178.12 (2) (d). The issue being that they can cause backflow devices to fail. For campgrounds with widespread use of splitters, work with the operator on developing an action plan to build out the use of splitters over an agreed upon timeframe. When you perform subsequent routine inspections, verify the progress the operator has made toward completing the action plan. Once an operator has an action plan in place and is actively working to complete that plan, it is not necessary write additional violations concerning the use of splitters.