



6th April 2020

Master Plumbers warns against self-installation of bidets

While many Canberra home-owners are taking the toilet paper shortage problem into their own hands by installing bidet attachments to their toilets, Master Plumbers ACT has warned that they risk seriously contaminating their water supply.

Executive Officer of Master Plumbers ACT, Leigh Watson, said that if these plumbing fixtures are installed without the appropriate safety mechanism the water can back cycle into the clean water supply, thus causing the water to be contaminated in a process known as “backflow”.

“Backflow is the undesirable reversal of the flow of fluids, chemicals, or any other foreign matter into the public drinking water system. This creates the very serious risk of contamination of toxic chemicals or other dangerous substances that can de-foul drinking water supply and potentially injure or even kill citizens.

“In order to prevent backflow of contaminants into drinking water, plumbers must install a specialised backflow preventer valve at strategic locations in the plumbing system wherever there is a risk of contaminated fluids entering the water supply pipes.”

She said that other examples of scenarios where such a serious incident might occur include:

- where a rain-water system has been installed with mains water via an automatic change over switch
- where a pump is connected to a hose or other outlets to increase the water pressure that is greater than the main - if there is no backflow prevention device, the water could be sucked back into the mains along with any additives or toxins.

“Plumbing, drainage and gas trades are administered by a strict licensing and legislative regime in the ACT for a reason, as water and waste are directly linked to the health and safety of the community. This is why it is imperative that persons hold the relative licences and insurances, to ensure the safety and protection of the community through the provision of clean drinking water, sanitation, and gas.

“Home-owners should ask their plumber and/or gasfitter to provide their licence prior to engaging them in any plumbing, drainage or gasfitting work,” said Ms Watson.

“By using a licenced plumber to install your bidet it will ensure your bidet is installed safely and will also be compliant with the relevant Australian Standard.”

Contact: Leigh Watson, Executive Officer 0433 831 403

MEDIA RELEASE