

Understanding Bidets and Douche valve installations

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Nothing new here?

Origins of the bidets

Initially it is thought that the first bidets were used back in 1710 and intended to cleanse intimate areas between baths. Those early versions had an upward water spray activated via a hand-pump.

Bidet seats first came about around the 1960s and the UK public got inspired to have them in a bathroom back in the 1970s/80s.

Then they declined in popularity and bathrooms got smaller.



Terminology?

Bidet toilet

Bidet shower

Commode spray

Health faucet

Hand shower rinse

Ablution valve

Bum gun

Douche Valve

Mini showers

Toilet shower spray

There is a key difference to a douche valve and a purpose made bidet toilet, albeit they may have similar intended use.



Now there back!

Bidet toilets, bidet toilet seats, Douch valves, Ablution showers

Have we missed a generation or two with installers who do bathrooms?

Many do a great job; many enter plumbing as a career doing bathrooms and don't have Water Regulations knowledge or experience then put people at risk from incorrect work.

The DIY experts are commonly found fitting bathrooms as its perceived to be easy!

Advantages of not using toilet paper!

More hygienic than toilet paper

Might use a less toilet paper or a toilet towel.
Washing with water reduces bacteria's.
Less chance of blocking.

Potentially limit the spread of germs

Hands aren't near fecal matter, less risk of spreading germs through touching and not washing hands.

Enhance the bathroom experience

A wash dry bidet toilet can enhance your toileting experience



What you need to know

The UK Water Supply (water fittings) Regulations 1999

Regulation 3 prohibits installing, altering, disconnecting, or using water fittings in a way that causes waste, misuse, undue consumption, or contamination of water supplied by a water undertaker.

Regulation 4 sets out the legal requirements for the design, installation, operation and maintenance of plumbing fittings and water – using appliances.



What you need to know

The UK Water Supply (water fittings) Regulations 1999

Regulation 5 states that a Bidet is a notifiable installation.

A bidet with an ascending spray or flexible hose.
This includes bidet toilets.

bidet toilet seats as the spray is below the spillover level and of course a Douche valve due to the hose having the potential to reach a WC bowl, or shower hose from an adjacent shower with extended hose etc.



What you need to know

The UK Water Supply (water fittings) Regulations 1999

Every water system should have adequate measures to prevent backflow of fluid into the wholesome water supply from any appliance.

Because of the location of an ablutionary shower and the intended use, the risk has increased for contamination to the wholesome supply.

The hazards posed are particularly high risk when an ablutionary shower valve is installed incorrectly.



What you need to know

The UK Water Supply (water fittings) Regulations 1999

Many ablutionary shower valves are installed in a bathroom or en-suites and can reach below the spillover level of the WC pan.

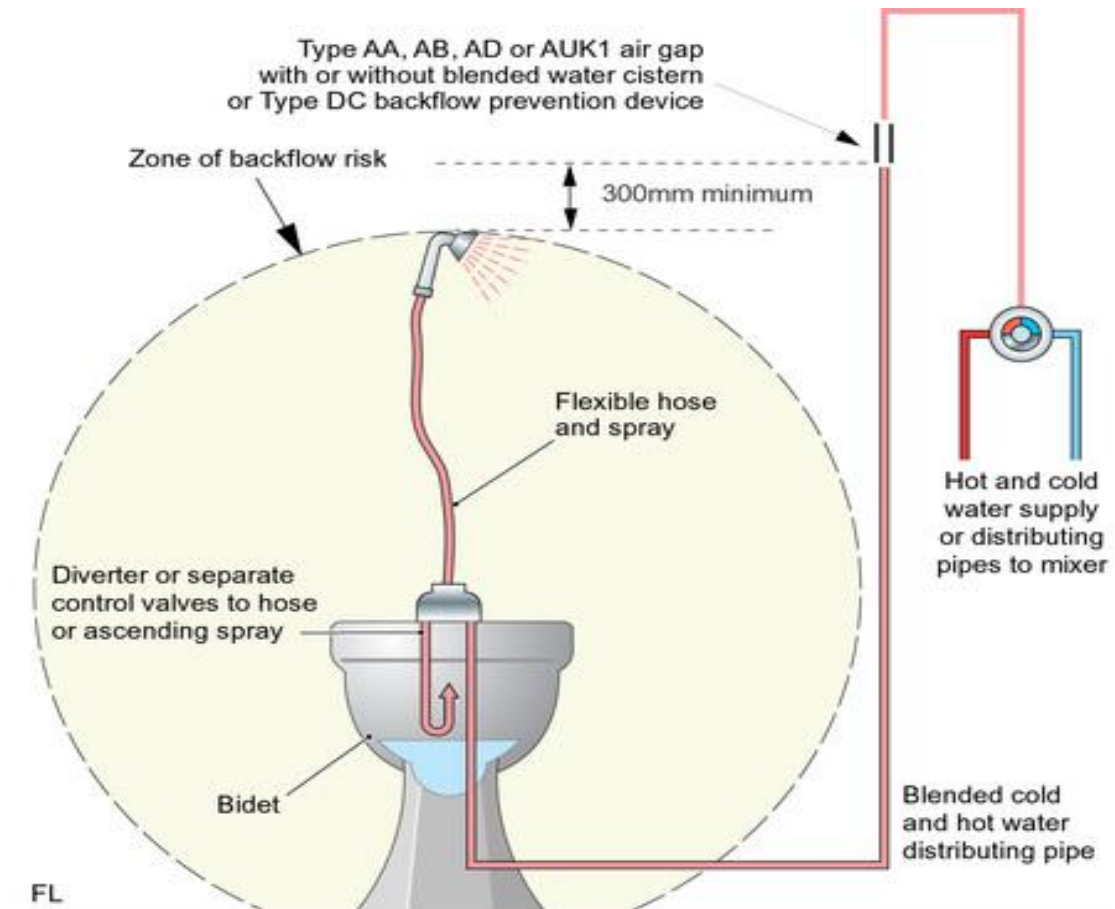
Many are not installed with backflow prevention and pose a risk.

The common error is installing a valve and hose that could enter the toilet bowl, bath or washbasin.



What you need to know

The UK Water Supply (water fittings) Regulations 1999





What you need to know

The UK Water Supply (water fittings) Regulations 1999

Let's remember that a WC is fluid category 5 and no mechanical check valve is suitable. Some installers have been installing double check valves into the hose outlet to prevent water travelling in the reverse direction.

However, a double check valve will only provide protection to fluid category 3 and must not be used.



What you need to know

The UK Water Supply (water fittings) Regulations 1999

Many homes now have an UVHW system, and all cold water fed via mains pressure. In many cases these cylinders do not have a separate HW connection or separate CW supply that open vented systems may have provided.

Therefore, any ablution valve installed must be supplied independently with HW and CW.

This would involve a cistern (AUK1 air gap) for CW and a water heater for the HW supply.

This in many cases make the installation not practical or over budget!

Apartments are a good example!



What you need to know

The UK Water Supply (water fittings) Regulations 1999

You can install a pipe interrupter/Type DC protection, but they reduce performance, appearances might not meet expectations, and a type DC valve can be noisy!

Type DC device



Ablution unit





What you need to know

The UK Water Supply (water fittings) Regulations 1999

With the increase in on-line sales, we start to see some manufactures instructions also failing to provide the correct information to meet UK Water Regulations.

The toilet seat adaption has a spout/spray below the spillover level, but some instructions state cutting into the cold supply to the toilet is adequate!

Others have electrical heaters for the warm water, again many contradict electrical regulations.



What you need to know

The UK Water Supply (water fittings) Regulations 1999



Toilet bidet seat
(arrow indicates water outlet)





Great solutions

The UK Water Supply (water fittings) Regulations 1999

The stylish built-in bidet toilets from leading manufacturers have all the necessary backflow requirements. They might cost more, but they are very effective with all-in-one functions and offer greater comfort for the user.



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What you need to know

The UK Water Supply (water fittings) Regulations 1999

Installers are now starting to see a double check valve fitted after the incoming stop valve.

Why?

Some water providers are asking for a double check valve at this point to reduce any potential impact of backflow/backpressure contamination to other properties as well as the mandatory check valves at the point of use.

This is to safeguard or future proof the wholesome water supplies in the area.



Whilst about backflow!

The UK Water Supply (water fittings) Regulations 1999

Blue water issues!

Some bottom fed float valves, particularly those not approved/fit for purpose and incorporate a telescopic adjustment with an AC air gap have been found to be at fault and the cause of blue water from the toilet cistern and coming out of the kitchen sink tap.

It was quickly identified because the customer uses blue coloured cistern blocks. These occurrences are becoming more common for inspectors across the UK.



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Any questions?

Thanks for listening.

If you would like to know more about the CIPHE or become a member, visit our website.

Email me directly- jerryw@ciphe.org.uk

