WaterRegsUK

Shower hoses

Checklist

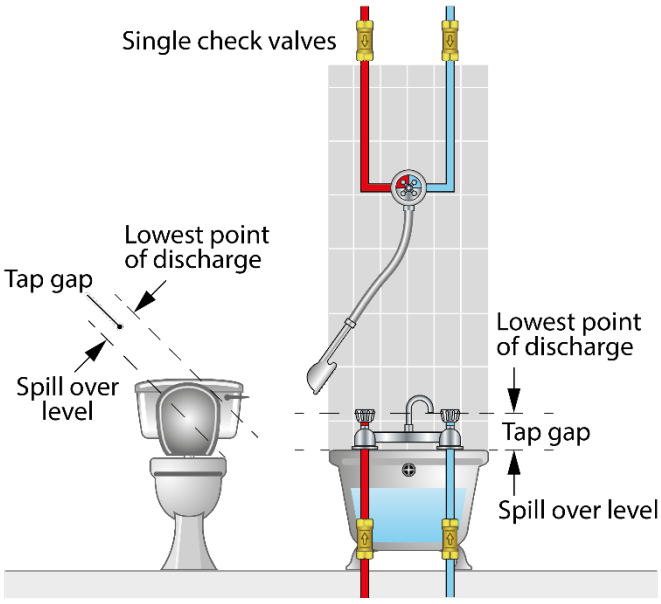
What is the typical level of backflow risk for a shower?

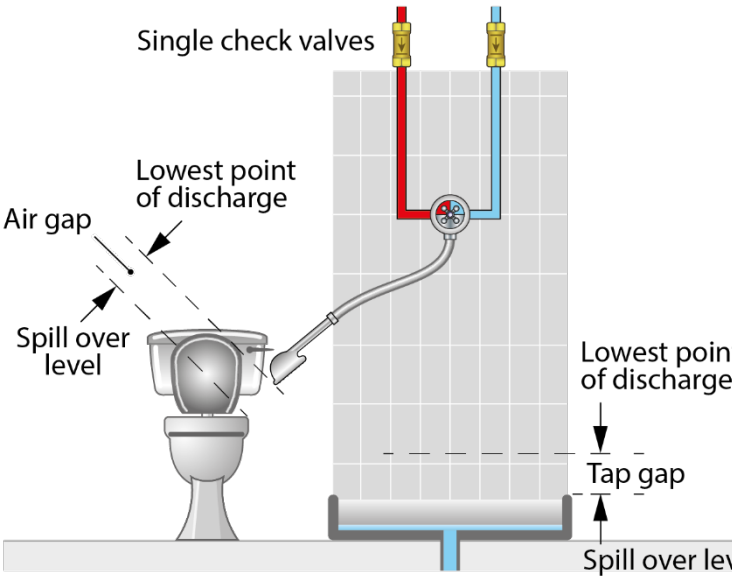
Although ultimately it is for the local water undertaker to determine what level of backflow protection is required, showers in low risk environments, for example a typical home may be categorised as a fluid category 3 risk, whereas those installed in high risk situations, such as health care premises are a fluid category 5 risk.

When would a shower be considered as a high risk?

In all premises a shower arrangement (including those combined with fixed shower head outlets) with a hose handset capable of reaching into a toilet bowl or bidet (irrespective of the bidet design) would be considered a fluid category 5 risk.

This means unless the shower hose can be permanently restrained or shortened to achieve a specific gap, known as a Type AUK3 tap gap, between the hose handset and spill over level of the toilet or bidet, all water supplies to the shower must be supplied via a suitable fluid category 5 backflow prevention arrangement. For example, a break tank arrangement incorporating a Type AB air gap.





Are there any other backflow risks to consider?

Yes, the hose handset being able to reach into a toilet bowl or bidet is not the only contamination risk of concern. Preventing backflow of

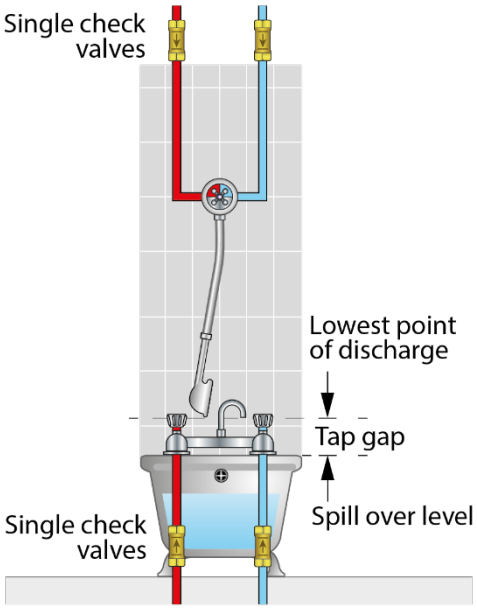
- water from the bath or shower tray via the hose; and
- either the cold or hot water supplies to the shower valve under fault conditions

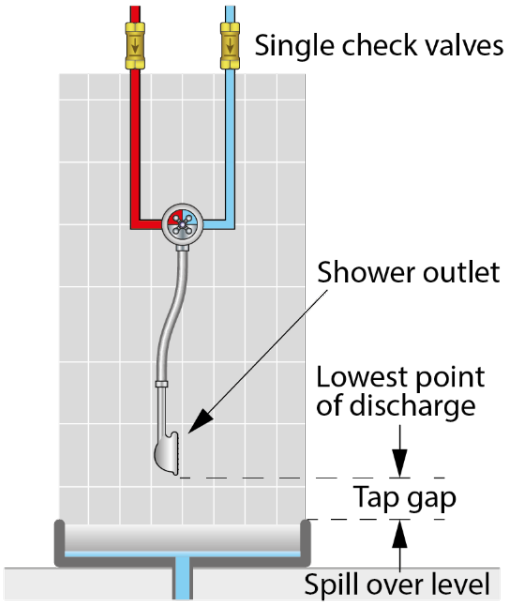
also needs to be addressed.

Typically, the risk of back siphonage of water in the bath or shower tray is tackled by ensuring the hose handset maintains a suitable tap gap above the spill over level of the bath or shower tray. This gap will vary depending upon both the diameter of the pipework supplying the shower and whether the installation is fluid category 5 (Type AUK3 tap gap) or fluid category 3 (Type AUK2 tap gap).

If the shower handset cannot maintain the required tap gap, then alternative backflow protection appropriate to the risk associated with the shower installation is needed.

The risk of cold water pressurising the hot water and hot water accessing the cold water mains supply under fault conditions is usually addressed by the installation of single check valves on the supplies to the shower valve. In the case of fluid category 3 shower installations if double check valves are fitted on the supply to the shower valve this would also address back siphonage via the hose where the required tap gap could not be maintained.





Please note other requirements apply refer to the Guidance published by Water Regs UK for further information
https://www.waterregsuk.co.uk/guidance/