



Airgap Requirements for Dishwashers

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WHAT is an AIRGAP and why is it required?

An airgap is designed to prevent a cross contamination of waste water by avoiding direct physical contact. An airgap provides a break between the potable water system, (the water we drink), and the waste or discharge sewer system. The two shall not make contact because bacteria may contaminate the drinking water.

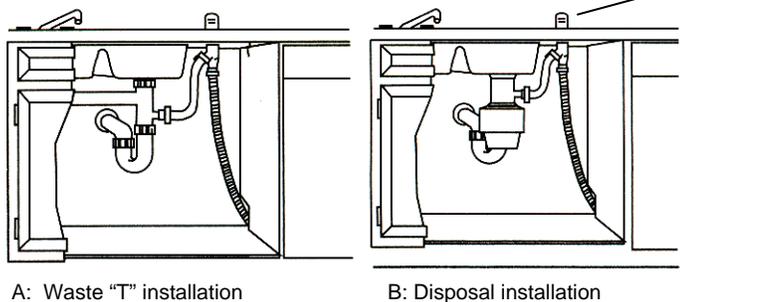
The airgap provides a vacuum break which will not allow the backflow of contaminated water in the drinking water system by providing air space between all potable and non-potable water systems.

DISHWASHER

The airgap on a dishwasher provides multiple purposes. It allows water to backflow into the sink relieving excessive pressure from a drain clog. It also acts as a vacuum break, not allowing contaminated drain water from being sucked back into the dishwasher during its operation which many dishwashers may do during the draining portion of their cycle.

Code [UPC 807.4] *“No domestic dishwashing machine shall be directly connected to a drainage system or food waste disposer without the use of an approved dishwasher airgap fitting on the discharge side of the dishwashing machine. Listed airgaps shall be installed with the flood level (FL) marking at or above of the flood level of the sink or drainboard, whichever is higher.”*

Figure 1. Airgap method with waste “T” or disposal



A: Waste “T” installation

B: Disposal installation

The airgap for a dishwasher is generally a chrome-capped device installed along the sink top