

## What if I have an existing hydrant with a below ground drain?



The plumbing inspector will not require that you replace an existing hydrant (installed before September 1, 2001) that has a below ground drain unless a health hazard is created by the hydrant.

However,  
all hose connections must be protected with an approved hose connection vacuum breaker.



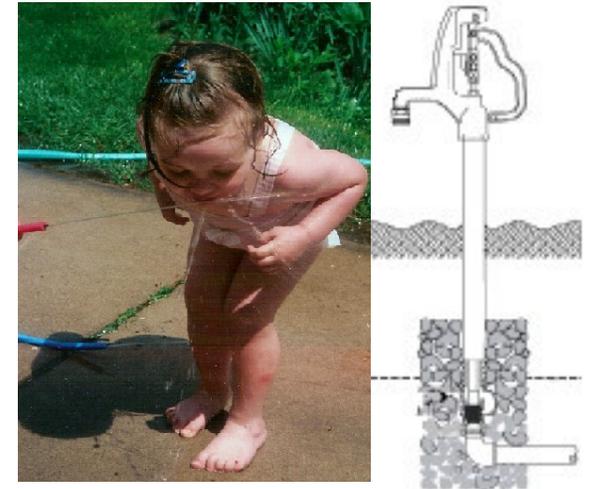
You can tell if a hose connection vacuum breaker is approved by checking for ASSE 1011 or 1052 on the device and for an approved seal.

Department of Safety &  
Professional Services  
Industry Services Division  
PO Box 7302  
Madison, WI 53707-7302



## Protect Your Water

### Yard Hydrants in Wisconsin



**Know what yard hydrants are code compliant in Wisconsin.**

**It can save you time, money, aggravation and possibly save you and your family from health problems.**

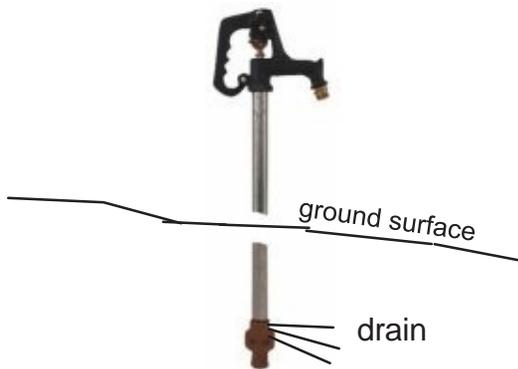


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SPS 382.40(8)(e)2., Wisconsin Administrative Code prohibits the installation of a yard hydrant with a below ground discharge. The code reads:

**“Stop and waste-type control valves may not be installed underground.”**

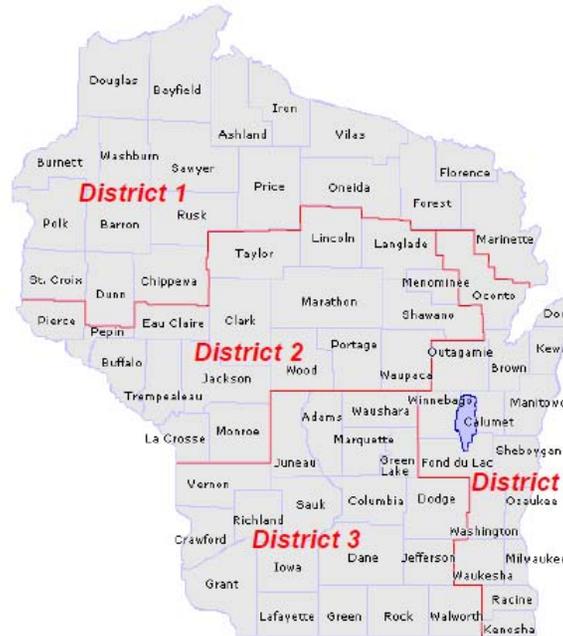
This type of hydrant, with a below ground discharge is popular because of the ease of operation and the relative low cost.



The plunger (control valve) is located below the frost line. When the handle is lifted water enters the riser and flows through the head. A drain at the same level as the plunger allows water in the riser and the head to drain each time the handle is lowered. This draining action prevents freezing temperatures from causing the water in the hydrant riser or head to expand and burst the device. If a hose connected to the hydrant without a hose connection vacuum breaker were submerged in a barrel, the entire contents of the barrel could be siphoned through the drain port and could contaminate the groundwater or even your drinking water supply.

*If you have further questions, please check the DSPS website at: <http://dsps.wi.gov/Programs/Industry-Services/Industry-Services-Programs/>*

*or, contact your local plumbing inspector  
or, contact one of the consultants listed*



1. Don Hough [Donald.Hough@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Donald.Hough@Wisconsin.gov)
  2. Bruce Meiners [Bruce.Meiners@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Bruce.Meiners@Wisconsin.gov)
  3. Ryan Boebel [Ryan.Boebel@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Ryan.Boebel@Wisconsin.gov)
  4. Phil Mnuk [Philip.Mnuk@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Philip.Mnuk@Wisconsin.gov)
- Supervisor: Tom Braun [Thomas.Braun@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Thomas.Braun@Wisconsin.gov)

## What does an approved yard hydrant look like?



There's no "one" answer for a code-compliant yard hydrant. Many manufacturers produce models that are code compliant. When you buy a hydrant, make sure that it has an approved hose connection vacuum breaker and does not include an underground drain.

And if you install a hose connection vacuum breaker on a yard hydrant make sure you loosen it during the winter to prevent freezing conditions from bursting the hydrant.

If you find a model that you have questions about, contact the department or your local plumbing inspector.