

Protecting your home against cross-connections

Without proper protection devices, something as useful as your garden hose has the potential to poison your home's water supply. In fact, over half of the nation's cross-connections involve unprotected garden hoses.

What is a "Cross-Connection"?

A Cross-Connection is a permanent or temporary piping arrangement which can allow your drinking water to be contaminated if a backflow condition occurs.

What is a "Backflow"?

It's just what it sounds like: the water is flowing in the opposite direction from its normal flow. With the direction of flow reversed, due to a change in pressures, backflow can allow contaminants to enter our drinking water system through cross-connections.

A potentially hazardous cross-connection occurs every time someone uses a garden hose sprayer to apply insecticides or herbicides to their lawn. Another cross connection occurs when someone uses their garden hose to clear a stoppage in their sewer line.

Without a backflow prevention device between your hose and hose bibb (spigot or outside faucet), the contents of the hose and anything it is connected to can backflow into the piping system and contaminate your drinking water.

Backflows due to cross connections are serious plumbing problems. They can cause sickness and even death. However, they can be avoided by the use of proper protection devices. Each spigot at your home must have a hose-bibb vacuum breaker installed. This is a simple, inexpensive device which can be purchased at any plumbing or hardware store. Installation is as easy as attaching your garden hose to a spigot.



Are you Poisoning your water Supply?

Your water hose is the #1 cause of poisoning our water! When your hose is attached to insect or fertilizer sprayers, or left in animal watering troughs, swimming pools, car wash buckets or any other container, low water pressure can cause back siphon pulling harmful chemicals into our drinking water. State law requires that ALL hose bibs have an anti-siphon vacuum breaker on them! Do you have one on all of yours? If not please purchase some at a local hardware store.

- **Thank YOU for saving lives!**