
Over half of the nation's cross-connections involve unprotected garden hoses.

In cities across the United States, persons have died from drinking out of a garden hose. One such death was caused by man was spraying his yard with poison to get rid of bugs by connecting his garden hose to a spraying device. Unknown to him, during the spraying a drop in pressure occurred in the main water system, causing the poisoned water to backflow into the hose...enough to kill him when he took a drink from the garden hose after spraying. He had contaminated his own water system.

The water entering your system is protected for you. However, it is your responsibility to protect the water on your property or in your home. If you need information on what you can do to protect it or have any questions, please call the number below. We will be glad to assist you.

Water purveyors take pride in the water they provide and will continue to protect it and their citizens.



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American Backflow Prevention Association
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**PROTECTING YOUR
WATER AGAINST
CONTAMINATION**



AN INTRODUCTION TO CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL

Everyday, water suppliers provide millions of gallons of water to their citizens. Water that must meet the requirements of the EPA. Before the water is pumped to your home or business, it has gone through careful treatment and numerous tests to ensure its quality.

Did you know that your tap water (drinking water) has to meet standards that exceed those for bottled water? Unlike tap water, the quality of finished bottled water is not government-monitored. You don't need to buy bottled water for safety reasons because your tap water meets or exceeds federal and state drinking water standards.

Congress established the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) in 1974 to protect human health from contaminants in drinking water and to prevent contamination of existing groundwater supplies. This act and its amendments require many actions to protect drinking water and its sources. One of these actions is the **installation and maintenance of an approved backflow prevention assembly at the water service connection whenever a potential hazard is determined to exist in the customer's system.** Without proper protection assemblies, cross-connections can occur.

What is a **cross-connection**?

Any connection between your drinking water and an unapproved source of water that can combine the two. With a cross-connection, your drinking water can become contaminated when a backflow condition occurs.

OK. So? What is **backflow**?

Backflow is when the water in your pipes (the pipes after the water meter) goes backward (the opposite direction from its normal flow). There are two situations that can cause the water to go backward (backflow):

Backpressure – the pressure in your pipes is greater than the pressure coming in.

Backsiphonage – a negative pressure in one of the pipes.

To protect the water system, two kinds of **backflow prevention assemblies** (devices that prevent the backflow of water) are required for all customers whose premises present a potential hazard to the main water system:

External – protect the water main system from cross-connection with the water on the customer's premises

Internal – protect the customer from potentially hazardous cross-connections in his own system.

What is considered a potential hazard?

ANY possibility of pollutants, contaminants, and system or plumbing hazards is considered a potential hazard. For example: fire protection systems, irrigation systems, gasoline refineries and stations, restaurants, hospitals, and manufacturers. Just to name a few.

To keep your drinking water safe, the plans for each new business are diligently checked for compliance with cross-connection/backflow requirements. Annual testing of all backflow prevention assemblies is required by law, so notices are sent to affected customers to advise them when this testing is due. If the assemblies do not pass the test, they must be repaired or replaced as needed.

Now that you have some background, you may ask...What's the big deal? Well, the big deal is that backflows due to cross-connections can cause sickness and death. Even in your own home, you can unwittingly create a cross-connection by:

Putting the garden hose in a swimming pool to fill it

Putting the garden hose in a pet's water bucket to fill it, or the fish tank

Putting the garden hose down the drain to flush out debris when it's backed up

Connecting your garden hose to a plant fertilizer or bug spray unit