

Water Faucets and Backflow Prevention

WHAT IS A CROSS CONNECTION?

Any physical connection between a possible source of contamination and any drinking water piping.

WHAT IS BACKFLOW?

The flow of water in the reverse direction within a piping system, potentially delivering contamination into the drinking water system

WHY DOES BACKFLOW OCCUR?


When a cross connection and backflow are combined, the result can be a contaminant entering the water supply piping.

WHY SHOULD YOU BE CONCERNED?

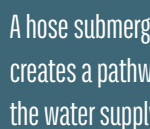
All cross connections pose a potential health risk. Chemical burns, fires, explosives, poisonings, illness and death have been caused by backflow through cross connections.

Backflow can be a health hazard at home or in your working environment if contaminated water enters your plumbing system and is used for drinking, cooking, or bathing.


EXAMPLES OF CROSS-CONNECTION AND BACKFLOW SCENARIOS?




Soapy water or other cleaning compounds back-siphon into the water supply system through a faucet or hose submerged in a bucket or laundry basin.




A hose submerged in a swimming pool that creates a pathway for pool water to enter the water supply system.




Fertilizers/pesticides back-siphon into the water supply system through a garden hose attached to a fertilizer/pesticide sprayer.



Chemicals/pesticides and animal feces drawn into the water supply system from a lawn irrigation system with submerged nozzles.



Bacteria/chemicals/additives present in a boiler system back-siphon into the water supply system.



A connection made between a private well and the Township water system.

SIMPLE SOLUTIONS TO ELIMINATING HAZARDS

1.

Install a hose bib vacuum breaker on all hose bibs. Frost-free hose bib vacuum breakers are recommended for outdoor use. When replacing hose bibs, install with vacuum breakers integral in the design.

2.

Eliminate hoses hanging into sinks, buckets, and pools. Either shorten the hose to above the sink/bucket rim or hang the hose away from the sink/bucket.

3.

Turn off the tap. Do not rely on a shut off nozzle at the end of a garden hose.

4.

Where chemical soap dispensers are connected to the faucet, ensure an approved air gap is in the housing.

If you see or suspect a hazard, contact the Cross Connection Coordinator at 604.533.6103