What is a cross-connection?

Any actual or potential connection between the waterworks and any source of pollution, contamination or other material or substance that could change the quality of water in a drinking water supply during a back-flow event. i.e. When you attach your garden hose to a herbicide sprayer or leave it submerged in water while filling a pool/tub you are connecting those new items to your and your neighbours fresh water supply.

What are the dangers of a cross-connection?

A cross-connection can contaminate your drinking water supply which can lead to very serious health effects. The more contaminants able to be drawn into a cross-connection the more serious the health effects.

How can cross-connections be prevented?

Cross-connections can be prevented in a variety of ways. First and formost, ensure you never directly link your drinking water supply with any harmful substances such as chemicals, cleaners, and stagnated water by maintaining an air gap at all times. You can also install hose bib vaccum breaker on your exterior taps.

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Cross-Connections, Backflow Prevention, & Your Safe Drinking Water

Cross-connections

Why they happen.

How they are very dangerous to your health.

How they can be prevented.

What is Back-flow?

The reversal of normal flow of water (potable or non-potable) or other substances into a drinking water system (DWS) that may be caused by back siphonage or back pressure in the presence of a cross connection

There are six basic types of devices that can be used to prevent backflow:

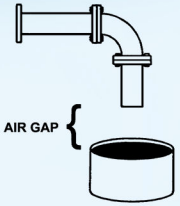
Mechanical

Atmospheric and pressure vacuum breakers
Double check valves with intermediate atmospheric vents
Double check valves
Reduced pressure devices

Vacuum Breaker

Non-mechanical

Air Gaps
Barometric Loops



What causes back-flow?

1. A break in the water main reduces water pressure.
2. Reverse flow is created by drop in water pressure. Dangerous contaminants can then be drawn into the drinking water supply through a cross-connection.
3. Without a backflow preventention assembly, dangerous contaminants could enter the drinking water supply.