



CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL AND BACKFLOW PREVENTION PROGRAM

No question about it, our primary job is to protect the integrity of our customer's drinking water. To ensure that our customers draw a clean glass of water when opening the tap, we continue to emphasize the Cross-Connection Control program, working with customers to prevent contamination of any kind.



WHAT IS THE LAW?

Louisiana Administrative Code Title 51:XII & Title 17:1 requires public water suppliers to protect their water systems from cross-connections and prevent backflow situations. Public water suppliers must evaluate any cross-connection hazards posed by their customers. If a customer has a cross-connection hazard, the customer will be required to eliminate the hazard and/or install a backflow prevention device.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

In Louisiana, the responsibility for preventing backflow is divided. In general, state and local plumbing codes have authority over plumbing systems within buildings, while Louisiana Department of Health regulates protection of the water distribution system. Water Customers have the ultimate responsibility for properly maintaining their plumbing systems. It is the homeowner's or other customer's responsibility to ensure that cross-connections are not created and that any required backflow prevention devices are tested annually and are in good working order.

WHY IS OUR WATER SYSTEM ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE?

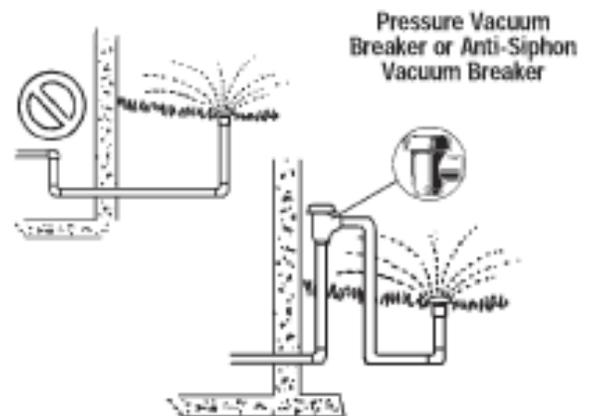
Our water system is particularly vulnerable to backflow contamination because most people are unaware of the dangers associated with backflow issues. Contamination entering your drinking water can cause serious health problems to you and your family. Sickness and even death can occur from ingesting water that has been contaminated.

WHAT IS BACKFLOW AND CROSS-CONNECTION?

Water systems depend on water pressure to keep water flowing through the pipes in the proper direction. Anything that causes a drop in water pressure can cause a reverse flow, or backflow from the customer's plumbing system back into the public water system.

For example, if you have a garden hose submerged to fill a bucket, Jacuzzi, fish tank, etc., and the water system loses pressure, the flow of water can be reversed, sucking any contaminants in that vessel backwards into the public water system.

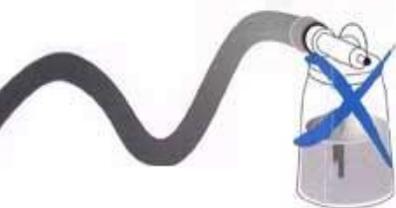
A cross-connection is any physical connection between a possible source of contamination and the public water system, where it is possible for contaminating fluids to be pulled or backflow into the water system.



Do install inexpensive backflow prevention devices on all threaded hose bibbs.



Never submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs or sinks.



Do not use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device.

HOW CAN YOU PREVENT CONTAMINATION OF YOUR DRINKING WATER?

Don't:

- Submerge hoses in buckets, tubs, sinks, ponds, etc.
- Use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device
- Use a hose to unplug blocked toilets, sewer, etc.

Do:

- ✓ Keep the ends of hoses clear of all possible contaminants.
- ✓ If not already equipped with an integral (built-in) vacuum breaker, buy and install hose bibb type vacuum breakers on all threaded faucets and around your home. These devices are inexpensive and are available at hardware stores and home improvement centers.
- ✓ Install an approved backflow prevention assembly on all underground lawn irrigation systems.



QUESTIONS ABOUT BACKFLOW OR MORE INFORMATION?

Contact us at:
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This educational material is provided by: Louisiana Rural Water Association