

CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL

CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

City of Monticello
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FIND OUT HOW
YOU CAN
PROTECT YOUR
HOME OR
BUSINESS FROM
THE DANGERS
ASSOCIATED
WITH CROSS
CONNECTION
CONTROL!



ARE YOU CONTAMINATING YOUR WATER SUPPLY?

Backflow prevention assemblies provide protection against contamination or pollution of the public drinking water systems. A backflow incident can seriously affect the quality and safety of our drinking water supplies.

YOU CAN AFFECT THE WATER YOU DRINK

Many public drinking water systems are contaminated each year by pollutants or contaminants that backflow into the water system through unprotected cross-connections. Identifying and eliminating or protecting cross connections is a matter of public health!

WHAT IS CROSS CONNECTION?

A Cross Connection is a physical connection (piping configuration) between the public drinking water system and anything else, including another water supply that can allow pollutants or contaminants to backflow into the public drinking water system.

WHAT IS BACKFLOW?

Backflow is the reversal of flow from a residential or commercial system back into the public drinking water system. A backflow incident could carry dangerous pollutants or contaminants into our public drinking water supplies making them unsafe to use.

Backflow can occur if your plumbing system is physically connected (a cross connection) to any source of contamination or pollution. Examples of possible cross connections include landscape sprinkling systems, hose attachments for utility sinks, chemical tank trucks, and garden hoses.

The International Plumbing Code, as adopted by the state of Utah and the Utah Public Drinking Water Rules require that all cross connections be eliminated or protected against backflow by installing an approved backflow prevention device or assembly.

THREADED HOSE CONNECTIONS (Hose Bib Vac. Breakers)



A large majority of backflow incidents are created by the common garden hose. Modern Plumbing Codes require that all threaded potable water outlets (hose bibs or sill cocks), except water heater drains and clothes washer connections, be protected by a non-removable hose bib vacuum breaker or an atmospheric vacuum breaker. The installation of a hose bib vacuum breaker is an inexpensive way to protect against contamination happening through your garden hose.



KITCHEN AND BATHROOM FACETS

Kitchen and bathroom faucets are generally designed with an adequate air gap between the end of the faucet and the flood rim of the sink. They are manufactured so that a hose can not be attached to the end of the faucet. Slip on hose connections can defeat the protection of the air gap and should not be used!

Hand held shower sprayers and other similar hose attachments also pose a problem. If submerged in the water, back-siphonage can occur. This problem can be corrected by installing a special hose vacuum breaker.

LAUNDRY ROOM

Your washing machine has air gaps built in at the factory. Utility sink faucets must be equipped with a hose bib vacuum breaker or atmospheric vacuum breaker.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Drain lines from water softeners and water conditioners are typically connected to the sewer line. An air gap must be provided between the end of the drain line and the sewer line to eliminate the possibility of raw sewage back siphoned into the drinking water system.

Sinks used for special purposes such as home photography darkrooms, arts and crafts, etc. must be protected by vacuum breakers to ensure that chemicals or other pollutants will not enter the water supply.

BALLCOCK ASSEMBLIES IN TOILETS

Many toilets are equipped with ballcock assemblies that do not meet code. These assemblies can allow water from the toilet tank to be siphoned back into the drinking water supply. Anti-siphon ballcock assemblies must be used to protect against back-siphonage

LANDSCAPE SPRINKLING SYSTEMS

The Plumbing Code requires that all landscape sprinkling systems connected to the public water system be equipped with an approved backflow prevention device or assembly.

Any sprinkling system that can utilize both public drinking water supplies and secondary water supplies must follow specific plumbing regulations to prevent raw water from entering the drinking water system!

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Where can I get information or have my questions about cross connection answered?

Call your local public drinking water agency or plumbing inspector regarding cross connection control and backflow prevention requirements in your area.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Utah Chapter – American Backflow Assoc.
Phone: 801-949-5512

Utah State Division of Drinking Water
Phone: 801-536-4200

Rural Water Association of Utah
Phone: 801-756-5123
Website: www.rwau.net

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