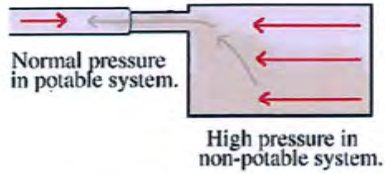
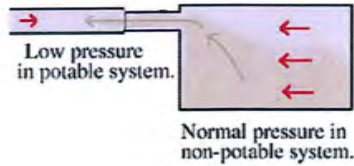


Back Pressure:



Back Siphonage:



Tips for Protecting Your Household Water

Do	Keep the ends of hoses off the ground and clear of all possible contaminants.
Do	Install an approved backflow prevention device on all underground lawn irrigation systems. Also, note that these systems require a permit.
Do	Contact the local water department if you see any irregular or unauthorized use of a fire hydrant at (781) 314-3855.
Do	Install vacuum breakers on all hose bibs in and outside your home.



CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL AND BACKFLOW PREVENTION

Common Residential Cross Connections

- Hose bibs
- Garden hoses
- Boilers
- Private wells
- Swimming pools
- Lawn irrigation systems
- Residential fire protection systems



Vacuum Breaker installed on outside hose bib



Vacuum Breaker

For more information, please contact the
 City of Waltham
 Water and Sewer Division
 165 Lexington Street
 (781) 314 3855



City of Waltham
 Water and Sewer Division
 (781) 314-3855

The Waltham Water Department makes every effort to ensure that the water delivered to your home and business is clean, safe and free of contamination. Our staff works very hard to protect the quality of the water delivered to our customers. But what happens when the water reaches your home or business? Is there still a need to protect the water quality from contamination caused by a cross-connection? If so, how?

What is a cross-connection?

A cross-connection occurs whenever the drinking water supply is or could be in contact with potential sources of pollution or contamination. Cross-connections exist in piping arrangements or equipment that allow the drinking water to come in contact with non-potable liquids, solids or gases (hazardous to humans) in event of a backflow.

What is a backflow?

Backflow is the undesired reverse of the water flow in the drinking water distribution lines. This backward flow of water can occur when the pressure created by equipment or system such as a boiler, or an air-conditioning unit, is higher than the water pressure inside the water distribution line (**back pressure**). It can also occur when the pressure in the distribution line drops due to routine occurrences, such as a water main break or heavy water demand causing the water to flow backward inside the water distribution system (**back siphonage**).

Backflow is a problem that many water consumers are unaware of, but a problem that each and every water customer has a responsibility to help prevent.

What can I do to help prevent a cross-connection?

Without the proper protection, something as simple as a garden hose has the potential to contaminate or pollute the drinking water lines in your house. In fact, over half of the country's cross-connection incidents involve unprotected garden hoses. There are very simple steps that you as a drinking water user can take to prevent such hazards, such as:

- NEVER submerge a hose in soapy water buckets, pet watering containers, pools, tubs, sinks, drains or chemicals.
- NEVER attached a hose to a garden sprayer without the proper backflow preventer.
- Buy and install a hose bibb vacuum breaker in any threaded water fixture. The installation can be as easy as attaching a garden hose to a spigot. This inexpensive device is available at most hardware stores and home-improvement centers.
- Identify and be aware of potential cross-connections to your water line.
- Buy appliances and equipment already equipped with a backflow preventer.

- Buy and install backflow prevention devices or assemblies for all high and moderate hazard connections.

If you are the owner or manager of a property that is used as a commercial, industrial or institutional facility, you must have your property's plumbing system surveyed for cross-connection by your water purveyor. If your property has NOT been surveyed for cross-connection, please contact the water department to schedule a cross-connection survey.

The Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations, 310 CMR 22.00, require all public water systems to have an approved and fully implemented Cross-connection Control Program (CCCP). The City of Waltham is working diligently to protect the public health of its drinking water customers from the hazards caused by unprotected cross-connections. We accomplish this through the implementation of a cross-connection survey program, the elimination of or proper protection of all identified cross-connections, the registration of all cross-connections protected by reduced pressure backflow preventers (RPBPs) or double check valve assemblies (DCVAs), and the implementation of a testing program for all RPBPs and DCVAs.

If you have any questions, please contact the Waltham Water & Sewer Division at (781)314-3855.