

Cross Connection Dangers



You can affect the quality of the water you drink

Identifying and elimination or protection cross connections is a matter of public health!

Many public drinking water systems are contaminated each year by pollutants or contaminants that backflow into the water system through unprotected cross connections. Unapproved or improper piping changes or connections can affect not only the availability, but also the quality of the water. A cross connection may let polluted water or even chemicals into the water system.

What is a Cross Connection? What is a Backflow?

A cross connection is a physical connection i.e. piping configuration, between the public drinking water and the anything else that could allow a backflow of pollutants into the public water system. Backflow is the reversal of flow from a residential water system to the public drinking water system.

Here are several common cross connections creating backflow.

Laundry Rooms – Utility sinks must be equipped with a hose bib vacuum breaker or atmospheric vacuum breaker.

Water Softeners and Conditioners – These 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 being back siphoned into the public water system.

Outside Water Tanks – Filling any outside water containment feature with a hose where the hose is left in the water could create a back siphoned of the water into the public water system.

Sinks used for photography darkrooms, arts and crafts – These also need a vacuum breakers to ensure that chemicals will not enter the public water system.

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. Use antisiphon ballcocks to protect our water system.

Connecting to a Fire Hydrant – Contaminants or pollutants can flow back into the public water system as a result of connecting a fire hose, garden hose, etc, directly to a fire hydrant to anything else that could contain nonpotable water or liquids. This is a cross connection and is prohibited. All hoses connected to a fire hydrant must be protected by an approved air gap or backflow assembly for the existing degree of hazard in accordance with the Cross Connection Control Ordinance for the Cedar Highlands water system.

Special Conditions – Placing the discharge end of a hose directly into storm drains, sewer systems, water tanks, storage vessels or ditches is strictly prohibited.

What Can Each of us Do?

Do not make or allow improper connections at our homes. Even a garden hose lying in a puddle of water is a cross connection. When this is allowed it will affect you and your family first. If you have any questions about proper connection ask your plumber or contact Cedar Highlands Water Master George Mason, (435) 590-8169.

For further information call:

(801) 5364200 – Utah State Division of Drinking Water
www.drinkingwater.utah.gov

If you have any questions concerning adequate backflow protection, please contact George Mason at (435) 590-8169.