

CROSS CONNECTION

We normally think of water as flowing in only one direction. However an unforeseen change in water pressure will cause water to flow backward, drawing contaminants into the water supply. This is called "backflow."

As your water provider, we work hard to supply you with pure, fresh water. You, as our customer, need to take necessary steps to protect your water from contamination.

In order to protect your drinking water, your water provider has a Cross Connection Control Program. This will protect the water system from contamination or pollution caused by cross connections and backflow.

A cross connection is when a potable (fit to drink) water supply pipe is connected to any piping or fixtures which can carry non-potable (unfit to drink) water or substance.

With all the construction going on today, it is possible to break a water main. Contaminants from unprotected cross connections could siphon back into the water system due to the loss of water pressure that a break creates.

Emergencies such as fire suppression can cause pressure problems. When firefighters put out fire, large volumes of water are drawn from hydrants.

Thousands of gallons of water flowing from the hydrants can cause water to flow in the opposite direction from which it was intended. This could cause reduced pressure resulting in back-siphonage of contaminants from unprotected cross connections.

Cross connections not protected by an approved backflow device could endanger the health of a household, neighborhood or community.

Though the most common threat of backflow for residential customers is through a garden hose, potential hazards also exist in underground irrigation systems, wells, swimming pools, hot tubs, heating/cooling and fire sprinkler systems.

These systems require specific backflow protection devices according to the Plumbing Code and Oregon Health Division Rules. Most devices require an annual test by an Oregon State Certified Tester.