

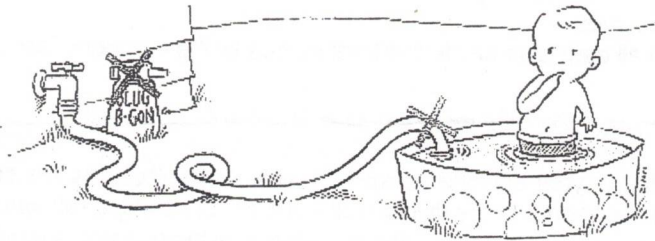
Cross-Connection Control

What is Cross Connection?

A cross-connection is any temporary or permanent connection between a public water system or the consumer's water system (i.e., drinking) and any source or system containing non-potable water, liquid, solid or gas that could contaminate the potable water supply by backflow.

What is Backflow?

Backflow is the undesirable reversal of the flow of water from its intended direction in any pipeline or plumbing system. Backflow is dangerous because it can allow drinking water in plumbing systems to become contaminated and unusable.



What are some examples of connection hazards?

Common examples of cross connection hazards (contamination sources) that need to be protected with a backflow preventer include:

Residential

- Fire Sprinkler systems
- Lawn Irrigations
- Private wells
- Hot tubs/spas
- Swimming pools
- Hose bibs/garden hose
- **Fertilizer spray attachments*
- In-home booster pumps

Commercial

- Boilers
- Soda Machines
- Fire Systems
- X-ray machines
- Film Processors
- Dental equipment
- Toilets and sinks
- ** these have an air gaps for protection*

There are numerous documented cases where drinking water has been contaminated via unprotected cross connections. These cases have caused illness, injury, and in some cases, death, to consumers served by the water systems. If you think you might have unprotected cross-connections and don't know what to do, call NWS and ask to speak with a Cross-Connection Control Specialist.