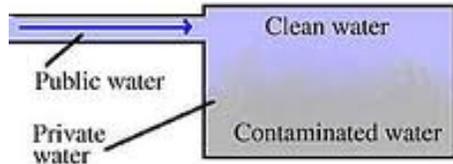


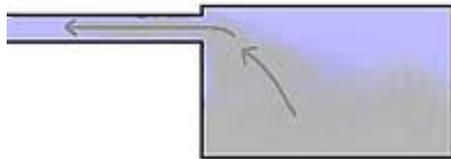
What Is Backflow?

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 the system is higher than the water pressure inside the water distribution line, this is called backpressure. Backsiphonage occurs when the pressure in the distribution line drops due to routine occurrences such as water main breaks or heavy water demand causing the water to flow backward inside the water distribution system.

Normal Conditions:



Back-siphonage:



Back-flowing water can suck bacteria, sewage, or chemicals from other parts of the plumbing system into your drinking water pipes or those of your neighbors. Unless you take steps to protect the cross-connections in your home, your drinking water may become contaminated.

Protect Your Drinking Water!

DON'T !

- Submerge hoses in buckets, swimming pools, tubs, sinks, ponds, or any standing water
- Use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device
- Leave the hose nozzle closed when not in use
- Use a hose to unplug blocked toilets or sewer pipe

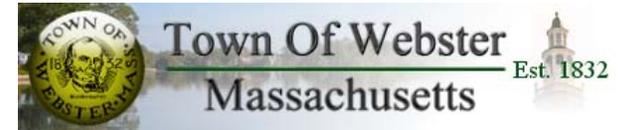
DO !

- Keep the ends of hoses off the ground and clear of all possible contaminants
- Install "hose bib vacuum breakers" on all faucets in and around your home.
- Install an approved backflow prevention device on all underground lawn irrigation systems. (Remember, these systems require a plumbing permit.)
- Contact your water supplier if you see any suspicious or unauthorized use of a fire hydrant.

CONTACT US

For more information please contact:

Webster Water Department
38 Hill Street
Webster, MA 01570
Tel. 508-949-3865



RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL

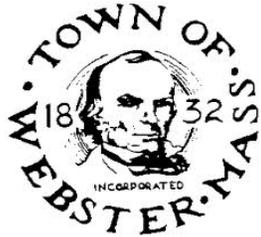
*Help us protect your drinking water supply
from accidental pollution.*



The most common Cross-Connection is a garden hose.

What Is A Cross-Connection?

Cross-connections can be found in all plumbing systems. They are physical or potential connections between a drinking water pipe and a source of contamination or pollution – anything that is not safe to drink. Cross connections are dangerous because unsafe pollutants can get into the drinking water system.



What Is Your Water Supplier Doing?

The Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations, 310 CMR 22.00, requires all public water systems to have an approved and fully implemented Cross-connection Control Program. The Town of Webster is working diligently to protect the public health of its drinking water customers from the hazards caused by unprotected cross-connections. This is achieved through the implementation of our cross-connection survey program, which identifies cross-connections and recommends elimination or proper protection with an approved backflow preventer.

As the consumer, you are responsible for the water on your property and in your house.

Many industrial and commercial customers use water in manufacturing, in their heating or cooling system, or for other non-drinking uses. These customers are required to install a “backflow prevention device” where the water enters their building to prevent any possible contamination of the water mains. These devices are tested annually to make sure that they are working properly.



This is a typical non-testable backflow device. If installed near the water meter it will stop water from going backwards from your house into the water pipes in the street.

Be advised that if your house needs to have a backflow prevention device installed at the meter, your plumber should make sure that you also have a thermal expansion tank. If not, pressure can build up in your pipes and cause damage to your piping or hot water heater.

How Can I Prevent Backflow?

The best way to protect yourself, your family, and your neighbors from polluted water is to either remove the cross-connections in your pipes or protect them against backflow. Many plumbing fixtures have built-in backflow protection. Others require installation of a separate backflow preventer. Generally, the installation of plumbing, in compliance with the plumbing code, will protect you from contamination.

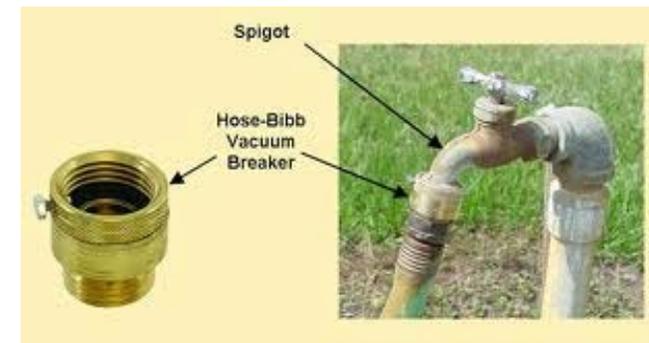
The most common cross-connection in a home is the outside garden hose. If the end of the hose is submerged in a bucket of cleaning fluid, fishpond or other open container during a low pressure event, this water could get sucked back into your water pipes. You can prevent this by installing a “hose bib vacuum breaker”. These devices screw directly on the faucet.

They are inexpensive and available at hardware and home improvement stores. You do NOT need a plumber. (These devices should be removed in the winter.)

Lawn chemicals or cleaners to wash your car or house siding can cause serious health problems if ingested. NEVER attach spray applicators to your hose unless you have a backflow device on the faucet!!

When filling a pool or fish pond, never leave the end of the hose submerged in the water. Also, always remember to leave the hose nozzle “open” when not in use, so that the water drains out of the hose. Otherwise, pressure in the hose could ruin the hose bib vacuum breaker.

Underground lawn irrigation systems can leave puddles of standing water around the sprinkler heads. These puddles could become contaminated with animal waste or fertilizer, so these systems are required to have a testable backflow device. These must be installed by a plumber and tested annually to make sure they are working properly.



Cross-Connection Control Regulations

The Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations, 310 CMR 22.00, requires all public water systems to have an approved and fully implemented Cross-connection Control Program. The Town of Webster is working diligently to protect the public health of its drinking water customers from the hazards caused by unprotected cross-connections.