

# YOUR WATER NEEDS PROTECTION AT A CROSS CONNECTION

## What Is a Cross Connection?

Cross connections are physical connections between a drinking water pipe and something that is not safe to drink.

Here are some common examples of residential cross connections:

- Garden hose
- Swimming pool
- Lawn sprinkler
- Boiler
- Washing machine

Cross connections pose a serious health hazard, as contaminants can enter the drinking water under backflow conditions.



## What Is Backflow?

Backflow is the unwanted flow of water in the reverse direction.

Your water supply line is designed to be a one-way delivery system bringing fresh water into your home.

Sometimes, though, pressure disruptions within the pipes (such as a water main break or unusually high hydrant usage by firefighters) can cause backflow, contaminating the clean water with waste and other harmful components.

**?** WHAT SHOULD I DO  
TO PROTECT MY  
WATER SUPPLY?



**NEVER** attach spray applicators to your hose unless you have a backflow device on the faucet!  
**NEVER** submerge hoses in buckets, swimming pools, ponds, or any standing water.  
**NEVER** use a hose to unplug blocked toilets or sewer pipes.

- **The most common cross connection in a home is the outside garden hose.**
- Prevent contamination by installing a "hose bib vacuum breaker," which are inexpensive and easy to install – no plumber needed!

