

# Cross Connection Control

Dear Water Consumers-

I would just like to touch on a very important subject regarding the safety of you and your family involving Cross-Connection and Back Flow. Please take a moment to read through this information.

What is a Cross-Connection?

Cross-Connection is any temporary or permanent arrangement or connection between a public water system or consumer's drinking water system and any source or system containing non-potable water or other substances. One example of a Cross-Connection is the piping between a public water system and a customer's lawn irrigation sprinkler system. The most common Cross-Connection is caused by the garden hose.

What is backflow?

Back-flow is the undesirable reversal of flow of non-potable water or other substances through a Cross-Connection and into the piping of a public water system or consumer's potable water system. There are two types of backflow: back pressure backflow and back-siphonage back-flow.

What can cause backflow?

Back-flow can be caused by a sudden drop in the water pressure in a public water main, which can create a sub-atmospheric condition. If a drop in pressure occurs while a hose is in a bucket of dirty water, for example, that water could backflow into the public water system, potentially contaminating the water for other users. A drop in pressure could be caused by a variety of things, including a water main break, loss of power at a pump station, etc.

What does Garden City Water System do to prevent backflow?

Since 1990, Garden City Water System has installed residential dual check valves on all residential and commercial water services. Back-flow prevention assemblies prevent water from re-entering the public water supply during a loss of pressure in Garden City Water System's water distribution system.

What can I do to prevent backflow?

You can prevent backflow in your home plumbing system by installing an inexpensive hose-bib vacuum breaker on each of your outside water spigots. These vacuum breakers will prevent water from being back-siphoned from a polluted or even contaminated water source into your home's water pipes or the public water distribution system. These devices cost about \$7.00, and are available at most plumbing or hardware stores. Hose-bib vacuum breakers have been required by the Standard Plumbing Code since 1963.

Who should I contact for more information?

Garden City Public Works Dept., Travis Hobbs or Riley Argyle (435) 946-2901

The American Back-flow Prevention Association, an international organization, was founded in 1984 to involve all people in protecting public health by protecting the drinking water through cross-connection control and backflow prevention.

TRAVIS HOBBS