



RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER REQUIREMENTS

The State requires each public water system owner to establish a program for cross-connection control and backflow prevention. Such a program is designed to prevent contamination of drinking water.

Contamination of the drinking water may occur under backsiphonage or backpressure conditions, whereby contaminants are siphoned or forced back into the drinking water supply. Backsiphonage of contaminants may occur when there is a pressure drop, creating a suction or partial vacuum in the system. It may happen during a waterline break or high usage in the water system, such as heavy consumption of fire fighting situations (when fire hydrants are available). Backpressure may occur when there are pumps or boilers on the water system, which produce pressures higher than water system pressures.

At the residential level, various means of protection are available to protect against backflow and avoid contamination of the drinking water supply

Examples of potential cross-connection and prevention



Frost-proof yard hydrant



Hose bib vacuum breaker



Hose bibs



Frost-proof hose bib vacuum breaker



Water operated aspirator used to spray chemicals



Hose bib with vacuum breaker installed

| Residential facility | |
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| Potential Cross-connection sites | Protection |
| Swimming pool | Air gap separation between water supply line and top edge of swimming pool |
| Hose bib connectors (outside water spigots) where water aspirators are used to spray chemicals and detergents. | Hose bib vacuum breaker or atmospheric vacuum breaker downstream of the last cutoff valve. |
| Water softeners | Air gap separation between water supply line and brine tank |
| Frost-proof hydrants | An approved hydrant or approved backflow preventer (reduced pressure principle device system recommended by manufacturer) from the water line to the hydrant. |
| In-ground lawn sprinklers | Reduced pressure principle device |
| Connections to other water sources such as springs, individual wells, cisterns...etc | NO connection is allowed between the public and private water supply |
| Hose bibs at laundry tub | Hose bib vacuum breaker or atmospheric vacuum breaker downstream of last cutoff valve |
| Booster pump | Low pressure cut-off switch on pump suction line or other device, depending on installation |
| Storage tank (other than hot water tank) | Air gap separation between water supply outlet and top edge of tank |
| Photo developing sink | Air gap separation between water supply outlet and top edge of sink, or atmospheric vacuum breaker downstream of last cutoff valve |