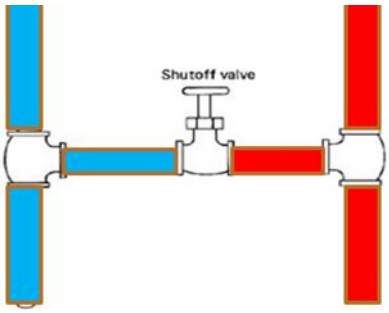
YOU CAN AFFECT THE QUALITY OF THE WATER YOU DRINK

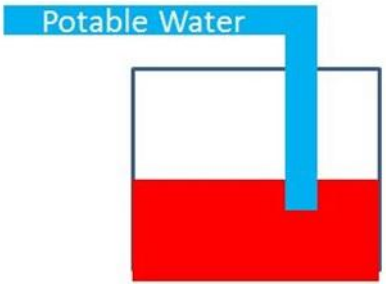
Many public drinking water systems are contaminated each year by pollutants or contaminants that backflow into the water system through unprotected cross-connections.

Identifying and eliminating or protecting cross connections is a matter of public health!

What is a Cross-Connection?

A cross-connection is a physical connection (piping configuration) between the public drinking water system and anything else, including another water supply that can allow undesirable pollutants or contaminants to backflow into the public drinking water system.





Drinking Water *Non-potable water or substance*

What is Backflow?

Backflow is the reversal of flow from a residential or commercial water system back into the public drinking water system. A backflow incident could occur if the water systems pressure decreases, or the customer's water pressure is higher than the water systems pressure. A backflow incident could carry pollutants or contaminants into our public drinking water supplies making them unsafe to use.

Backpressure Backflow

Backsiphonage Backflow

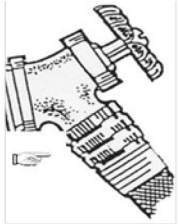
The Plumbing Code and the Utah Public Drinking Water Rules require that all cross connections be eliminated or protected against backflow by installing an approved backflow device or assembly that will insure that no impurities or contaminants are introduced to the public drinking water supply.

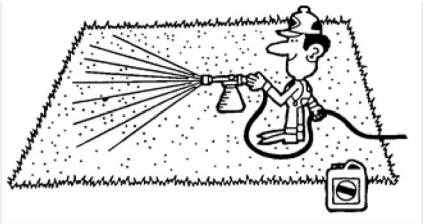
Can I protect my **home** or **business** from the dangers associated with cross-connections and backflow?

Yes! Several common cross connections are described below:

Threaded Hose Connections (Hose Bibs)

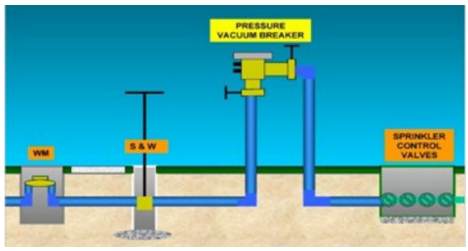
A large majority of backflow incidents are created by the common garden hose. Hoses can be connected to most anything that may contain undesirable substances such as chemical sprayers, buckets and pools, stock troughs. Plumbing Code requires that all threaded potable water outlets (hose bibs or sill cocks), except water heater drains and clothes washer connections, be protected by a non-removable hose bib vacuum breaker or an atmospheric vacuum breaker. The installation of a hose bib vacuum breaker is an inexpensive way to protect against contamination.





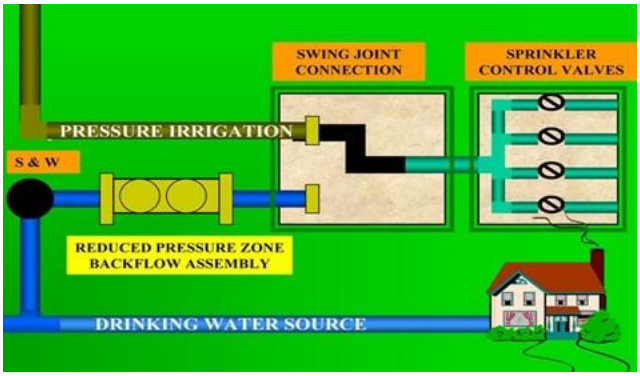
Landscape Sprinkling System

The Plumbing Code requires that all landscape sprinkling systems connected to the public drinking water system be equipped with an approved backflow prevention device or assembly. Landscape irrigation systems could subject the drinking water supplies to things such as fertilizers, pesticides and animal waste.



Any sprinkling system that can utilize both public drinking water supplies and secondary water supplies must follow specific plumbing regulations to prevent raw water from entering the drinking water system!

Please contact your local drinking water supplier for specific requirements regarding landscape irrigation systems and which type of backflow prevention is appropriate for your landscape irrigation system.



Where can I get more info or have my questions about cross connections answered?

Call your local public drinking water agency or plumbing inspector regarding cross connection control and backflow prevention requirements in your area.

For further info, call the Utah Division of Drinking Water at (801) 536-4200.

Jordanelle SSD 435-654-9233 05/2023