

Action You Can Take Prior to Inspection:

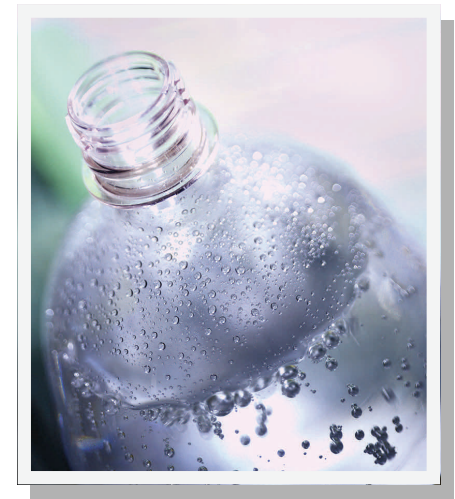
- * Read and understand this brochure.
- * Review each of the diagrams and review your bathroom and kitchen set-up to ensure you are protected.
- * Call a plumber with questions on backflow prevention for boiler or plumbing fixtures and appliances.
- * Inspect hose connections on your house for proper backflow prevention (ex. outside hose facet and utility sinks).

Remember, only *you* can prevent cross connections from occurring where you live. Follow these tips and you will be eliminating the chances of contaminating your family's drinking water.

Tips:

- ✓ Keep the ends of hoses clear of all possible contaminants.
- ✗ Don't submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, sinks, or ponds.
- ✓ Make sure dishwashers are installed with air gap device.
- ✗ Don't use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device.
- ✓ Verify and install a simple hose bibb vacuum breaker on all threaded faucets around your home.
- ✓ Have a minimum of an 1" air gap on all water treatment devices.

Protect Your Drinking Water



Provided by the Fall River Utility Cross Connection Consultant:



**General Engineering
Company**

916 Silver Lake Drive
P.O. Box 340
Portage, WI 53901

Phone: 608-742-2169
Fax: 608-742-2592
Website:
www.generalengineering.net

**Cross Connection and
Backflow Prevention Guide
for Residential Users**

What is a Cross Connection?

A "Cross Connection" means a connection or potential connection between any part of the municipal water supply system and another environment containing substances in a manner that, under any circumstances, would allow the substances to enter the water supply system by means of back-siphonage or back pressure.

How Does Contamination Occur?

When you turn on a faucet, you expect the water to be as safe as when it left the water reservoir. However, certain hydraulic conditions left unprotected within your plumbing system may allow hazardous substances to enter and contaminate the drinking water in your home, or even the public water supply. Water normally flows in one direction to your faucet. However, under certain conditions, water can actually flow backwards; this is known as Backflow. There are two situations that can cause Backflow: back-siphonage and back pressure.

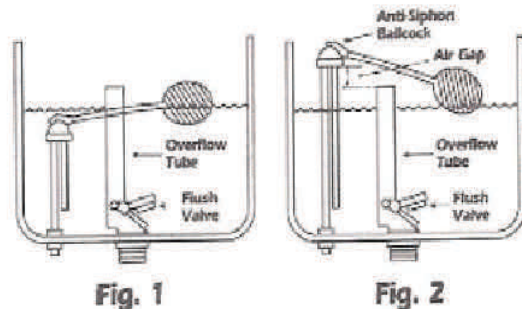
Back-Siphonage: May occur due to a loss of pressure in the municipal water supply such as from a water main break.

Back Pressure: May occur when a source (such as a boiler) creates a greater pressure than the incoming water pressure.

You can prevent back-siphonage by installing inexpensive safety devices or taking a few simple precautions.

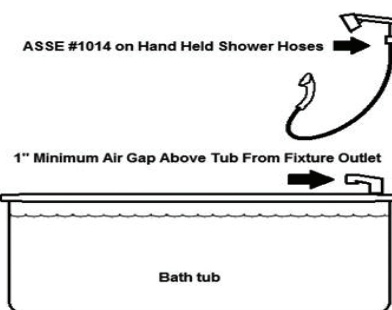
TOILET TANKS

Anti-siphon Ballcocks - Toilet tanks contain a ballcock device which allows water to flow into the tank after flushing. Older style ballcocks do not have an anti-siphon feature, allowing water from the toilet to backflow into your drinking water line (Fig. 1). A simple anti-siphon ballcock installed with a 25mm (1") air gap above the overflow tube will prevent contamination from tank water entering the water supply (Fig. 2). Look for the ASSE #1002 Standard symbol on the device or packaging for approved backflow prevention on your toilet.



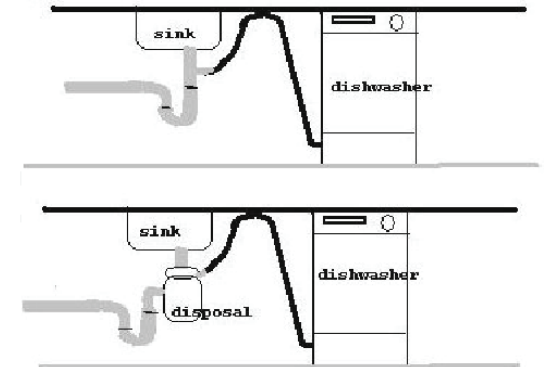
HAND HELD SHOWER

Hand held showers that can sit in bath tub or shower water create a potential cross-connection. Many hand showers already come with built-in backflow prevention, but not all. The most obvious way to prevent a cross-connection at a hand shower is to replace the hand shower with a standard shower head that doesn't have a hose. If you don't want to lose your hand shower, install a vacuum breaker with a 1/2" thread. This device installs in-between the pipe coming out of the wall and the shower head.



IN THE KITCHEN

Hoses and water treatment devices may create a potential backflow hazard if not properly isolated



Garden Hose Vacuum Breakers

Remember to drain all water from your device to prevent freezing on your outdoor hose bibbs!



WI Dept. of Safety & Professional Services:
www.dsps.wi.gov/sb/

WI Dept. of Natural Resources:
www.dnr.wi.gov

Environmental Protection Agency:
www.epa.gov

WI Cross Connection Control Resources:
www.generalengineering.net/services/cross-connection.html