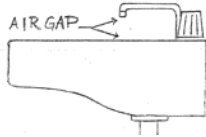


What can you do?

Plumbing codes require backflow protection on all plumbing products that could become cross-connections. The faucet is required to have an air gap between the end of the faucet and the



top of the sink. Garden hose connections are required to have a hose bibb vacuum breaker built in or added to the hose threads.

You can help prevent backflow by making sure that the hose bibb vacuum breakers are installed on each of your hose bibbs, that the kitchen sprayer hose is never left in the sink where it could become submerged, and by making sure your toilets have the correct fill valves installed.

There are places where cross-connections are necessary. One such place is where your water supply pipe is attached to your irrigation system. When such conditions require cross-connections, make sure you have the proper backflow prevention assembly installed and tested periodically to ensure it is functioning properly.

Questions?

Contact your water provider at _____, the Colorado Backflow Prevention Association or the American Backflow Prevention Association as listed on the back of this pamphlet.

Colorado Backflow Prevention Association

Visit us: www.backflow.org

Contact us: info@backflow.org

Or visit the
American Backflow Prevention Association
www.abpa.org

This brochure provided to the people
of

Pinewood Springs

with the assistance of the

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What it is and how to prevent it.

What is a cross-connection?

A cross-connection is any connection between the pipes that bring the drinking water into a house or property and any source of any other substance, including other sources of water.

What is backflow?

Backflow is when the water in the pipes goes backward. When backflow happens at a cross-connection, there is a possibility of the drinking water becoming contaminated.

There are two reasons backflow can occur:

Backpressure

This happens when the pressure in the water pipes in the house or property is greater than the pressure in the supply pipes coming into the house or the property.

Backsiphonage

When there is a complete lack of pressure, or a vacuum, in the supply pipes.

What then?

When backflow occurs, anything that is available at the cross-connection is forced (backpressure) backward into the supply pipes or siphoned (backsiphonage) backward into the supply pipes.

This pamphlet is designed to provide general information to anyone interested in learning about cross-connections and backflow.

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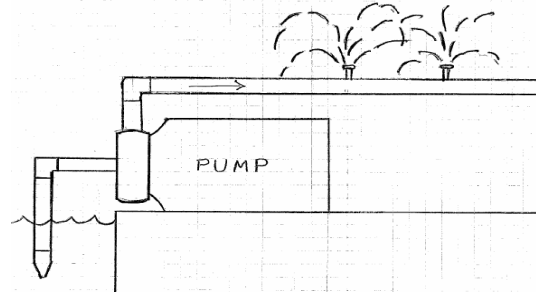
Send comments to info@backflow.org

Backpressure

Many conditions can cause backpressure.

When a boiler, water heater or other heat source causes the water in pipes in the house or property to get warmer, the higher temperature causes higher pressure and forces the water backward into the supply pipes. This is known as thermal expansion.

If there is a pump on the premises, such as an irrigation booster pump or a pressure washer connected to a hose, higher pressure can force water backward.

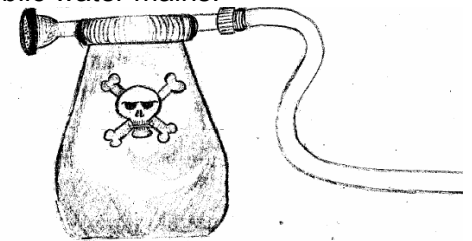


If a cross-connection exists and a backflow event occurs from a boiler, chemicals in the boiler or other equipment, such as antifreeze, rust inhibitor, etc., will be forced backward into the drinking water. Depending on how long the backflow event lasts, the contaminants could come out in a drinking fountain, kitchen sink or coffee maker. If the backflow event lasts long enough, the contaminants could be forced all the way to the public water system in the street and come out in the building next door!

Backsiphonage

Backsiphonage is caused by a lack of pressure in the supply pipes. A drop in pressure can be caused by a water main break or a high demand for water. If fire trucks connect to fire hydrants to fight a fire, the fire trucks can pull enough water from the public water mains to create a drop in pressure. The trucks can cause the water in the public water mains to flow backward and pull the water from nearby buildings.

If a cross-connection exists and a backflow event occurs, a contaminant can be siphoned backward into the supply pipes. If the garden hose is connected to a chemical sprayer, or left submerged in a wading pool, the chemicals from the sprayer or the water from the wading pool can be siphoned backward into the building. If the backflow event lasts long enough, the contaminant can be siphoned into the public water mains.



When the pressure in the public water main is restored, the contaminants are pushed to the buildings where the water is supposed to be delivered. Then the neighbors may be drinking water from the wading pool or the chemicals from the garden hose sprayer.