



CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions:

CAN I AFFECT THE QUALITY OF THE WATER I DRINK?

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

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 pollutants or contaminants to backflow into the public drinking water system.

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 carry pollutants or contaminants into our public drinking water supplies making them unsafe to use.

The Uniform 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.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MY HOME OR BUSINESS FROM THE DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH CROSS-CONNECTIONS AND BACKFLOW?

Pressure Irrigation Systems

Pressure irrigation systems that are physically connected directly with the public drinking water system create serious cross-connections. Untreated irrigation water flowing back into the drinking water system can carry disease-causing microorganisms that can contaminate our water supplies making them unsafe to

use. A complete **physical separation** between the pressure irrigation supply and the public drinking system is required.

Landscape Sprinkling Systems

The Uniform Plumbing Code requires that all residential and commercial landscape sprinkling systems connected to the public drinking water system be equipped with an approved backflow prevention device or assembly. Landscape sprinkling systems require a permit and inspection by Layton City personnel.

Threaded Hose Connections (Hose Bibs)

A large majority of the backflow incidents that occur are associated with the use of garden hoses, etc. Chapter 10 of the Uniform Plumbing Code requires that all potable water outlets with hose attachments other than water heater drains and clothes washer connections are protected by a **non-removable** hose bib vacuum breaker or an atmospheric vacuum breaker installed to code. We strongly recommend that all water outlets with hose attachments are protected by one of the above methods.

HOW CAN I DETERMINE IF I HAVE A CROSS-CONNECTION ON MY WATER SYSTEM?

A good rule of thumb is: If your water supply is connected to something that could potentially affect the water quality resulting in health or safety risks, a cross-connection probably exists and should be protected against backflow.

Examples of common cross-connections include: garden hoses submerged in buckets, animal watering troughs, utility sinks, swimming or wading pools, etc. A spray attachment used on the end of a hose to apply pesticides to your lawn and garden is a health hazard. Water lines or hoses should never be used to unplug backed up sewer lines. Unprotected sprinkling systems can allow backflow to occur.

WHERE CAN I GET INFORMATION OR HAVE MY QUESTIONS ANSWERED?

Your local public drinking water supplier or plumbing inspector can answer questions concerning cross-connection control and backflow prevention requirements in your area. Listed below are other sources of information relating to cross-connection control.

Utah Division of Drinking Water	801-536-4200	www.drinkingwater.utah.gov
Layton City Public Works Darrin Taylor or Wes Adams	801-336-3720	www.laytoncity.org