



6/16/2023

# Backflow and Cross connection

Keeping our drinking water safe



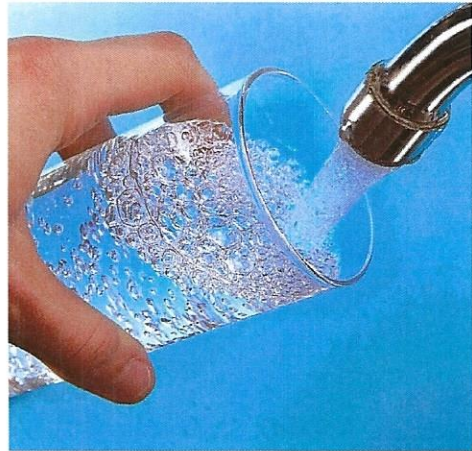
McDonald Water Department  
330-530-5472

# ***BACKFLOW AND CROSSCONNECTIONS***

*Take these steps to become a more responsible consumer*

*Of our most precious resource*

Clean drinking water is sometimes taken for granted in our homes and businesses. We turn on a fixture and put our trust in our supplier. But it takes responsible residents to take some necessary precautions to keep it safe for your family as well as your community. Please take a moment and educate yourself on how we can keep this vital resource safe and hazard free.



## ***What is Backflow and Cross connection?***

Backflow can most simply be described as a reverse in flow direction of water in your drinking water distribution lines. This backflow can occur when the pressure in your home or business exceeds the pressure being supplied to you. This is most commonly the result of equipment or a system such as a boiler that may create higher than normal pressure or a significant drop in distribution pressure due to higher-than-normal demand that may occur from main line breaks or fire demand can also create backflow or back siphonage.

Cross connections are any actual or potential connection between drinking water lines and a potential source of pollution or contamination such as piping or equipment that may allow drinking water to come in contact with non-potable liquids, solids or gases hazardous to humans in the event of a back flow.

## ***What can I do to help prevent Cross-Connection?***

Without proper protection, a simple garden hose has the potential to contaminate the water lines in your house or business. In fact, over half the country's cross-connection incidents are the result of unprotected garden hoses. Here are some simple steps that you can take to help prevent any hazards to your drinking water as well as our communities:

- NEVER submerge a hose in a soapy water bucket, pet water container, pool, tubs, sinks, drains or chemicals.
- NEVER attach a hose to a garden sprayer without backflow protection.
- Buy and install a hose vacuum breaker in any threaded water fixture. These devices can be purchased at most hardware stores.
- Identify and be aware of potential cross-connections to your water lines.
- Buy appliances and equipment with backflow preventer.
- Buy and install backflow prevention devices or assemblies for all your high and moderate hazard connections.



Vacuum Breaker



Dual Check Valve



Hose Bib with included vacuum breaker

These are a few examples of back siphoning devices that can be found at most any DIY hardware store that can protect your home or business from most common backflow issues. Larger (whole home) backflow units are also available but may require professional installation by a licensed plumber.

I hope this information has been helpful. Please take the time to follow some of these simple precautions to keep your family and our community safe. If you suspect you have a cross-connection, or have any water related questions, feel free to call The McDonald Water Department.

***McDonald Water Department 330-530-5472***