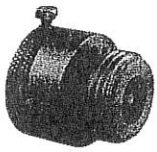
Owner Name
Address

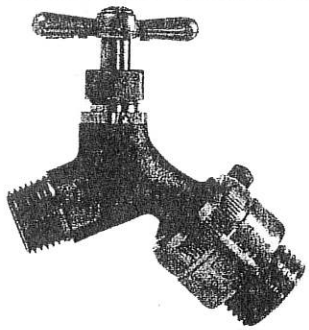
This letter is to get information about how water is used on your property. Here at (Water System Name) we strive to provide clean and protected drinking water at every connection. On rare occasions when the water pressure drops in the main line due to construction or a water leak, a backsiphonage situation may occur and pull water backwards, this is called backflow. To prevent contaminated water from backflowing, (water system ordinance) and the International Plumbing Code Chapter 6 with coordinating Utah Amendments requires all cross connections to be protected with backflow protection.

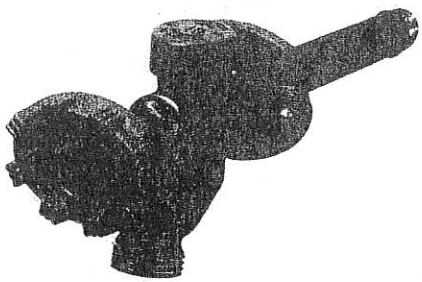
Please answer the following questions for our water operators to better understand any possible cross connections at your home and return to (address). This information will be used to help better protect our community's drinking water.

Yes	No	
		Do you water your lawn with a conventional sprinkler system?
		If yes, is it connected to the culinary/drinking water (even as a backup)?
		Do you have a water softener?
		Do you have a private well on your property?
		Do you have a hobby farm or greenhouse?
		If yes, do you inject fertilizer or other chemicals into the irrigation system?
		Do you have a swimming pool or pond?
		Do your outdoor faucets have a backflow preventer (see examples below)?









Completed by (printed name): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Sincerely,

(Employee Name)
(Employee Position)
(Water System Name)
(Phone Number)

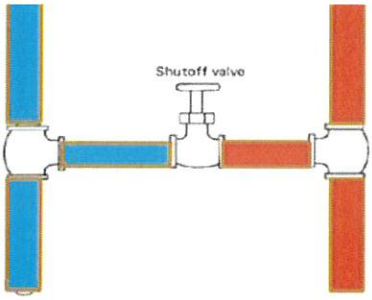
YOU CAN AFFECT THE QUALITY OF THE WATER YOU DRINK

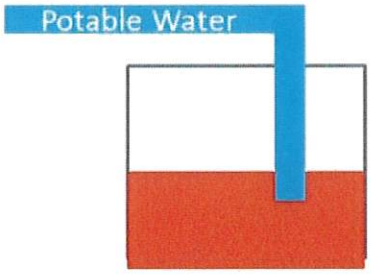
Many public drinking water systems are contaminated each year by pollutants or contaminants that backflow into the water system through unprotected cross-connections.

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.

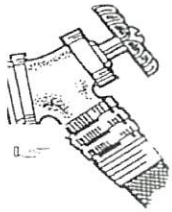
Can I protect my **home** or **business** from the dangers associated with cross-connections and backflow?

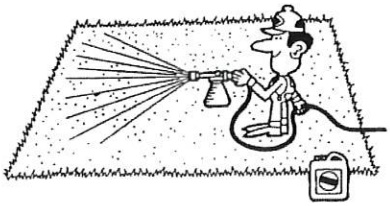
Yes! Several common cross connections are described below:

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.







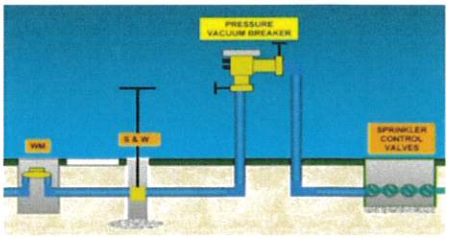
Landscape Sprinkling System

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.



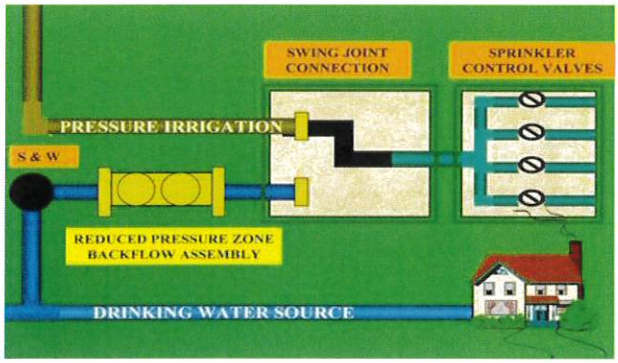






Any sprinkling system that can utilize both public drinking water supplies and secondary water supplies must follow specific plumbing regulations to prevent raw water from entering the drinking water system!

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.