A toilet can be a source for a cross connection

The toilet fill valve (ballcock) can be submerged below the water overflow line or a non-approved fill valve installed. Both situations can cause a cross connection.

What does this inspection entail?

A survey is required by the State of Wisconsin on all Commercial and Multi-family buildings, to look for the possible interconnection of potable (drinking) water and contaminated sources. This is a City required inspection. The inspector will have to follow the water lines to where ever they run. Therefore, they may need access to the entire building.

Action to take

- Read and understand this brochure
- Inspect hose connections on your house for proper back flow protection. (outside hose faucet and Laundry sink.)
- Call a plumber with questions on back flow protection for boiler or plumbing fixtures and appliances.
- Questions about cross connection or backflow issues call the Dept. of Neighborhood Services Cross Connection Section at 286-3361 Monday - Friday 7:30 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.

MILWAUKEE

Department of Neighborhood Services
Plumbing Section
841 N. Broadway Rm 104
Milwaukee Wi. 53202
(414) 286-3361
www.milwaukee.gov/dns

Protect Your Drinking Water

CAUTION!

Your garden hose may be hazardous to your health. Learn how unprotected water can be a serious public health threat!

City of Milwaukee
Department of Neighborhood Services

DNS-124 V15 TNW 11/05/14

What is the most common form of a cross connection?

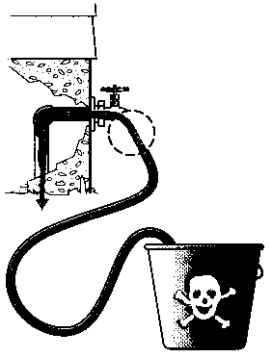
Locally, the ordinary garden hose is the most common offender as it can be easily connected to the potable (drinking) water supply and used for a variety of potentially dangerous applications.

What is Backflow?

Backflow occurs when the flow of water, in any pipeline or plumbing system, reverses and flows in the opposite direction than intended. The normal direction of water flow is from the utility water main to the homes or businesses. The backflow of water from home plumbing systems into the community's drinking water sometimes results from a pressure source, like a well pump. Signs of contaminated water range from water that is off-color and undesirably odorous to water that contains health threatening and even life threatening toxins.

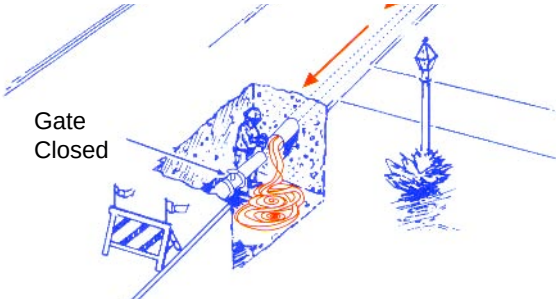
What is potentially dangerous about an unprotected hose faucet?

The purpose of a hose faucet is to allow easy attachment of a hose for outside watering purposes. However, garden hoses can be extremely hazardous because they are left submerged in swimming pools, laid in elevated locations (above the hose faucet) when watering shrubs, attaching chemical sprayers to hoses for weed-killing, etc.; and hoses are often left laying on the ground, which may be contaminated with fertilizer, cesspools, and garden chemicals.



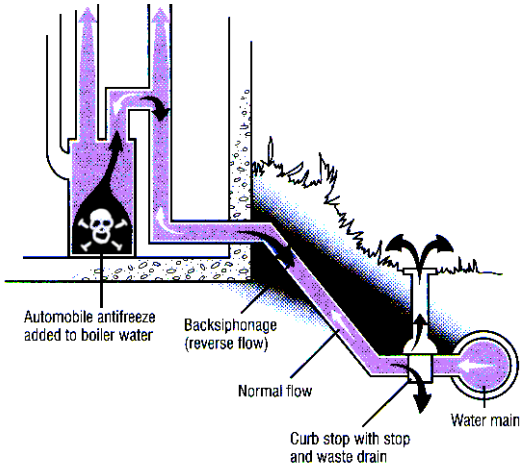
What protection is required for a hose faucet?

A hose faucet vacuum breaker should be installed on every hose faucet to isolate garden hose applications thus protecting the water supply from contamination.



Backflow can occur if there is a pressure drop in a water supply system because of a pipe break in a water main or an opened hydrant, for testing or fire fighting .

Fertilizer, weedkiller, or something worse, can be sucked into water meant for your family. If someone drinks, cooks or bathes in contaminated water, it can cause serious illness or death.

What is a cross connection?

A cross connection is a direct arrangement of piping which allows the potable (drinking) water supply to be connected to one which contains a contaminant. An example is the common garden hose attached to a hose faucet with the end of the hose laying in a cesspool. Other examples are a garden hose attached to a service sink with the end of the hose submerged in a tub full of detergent, supply lines connected to bottom-fed tanks and supply lines to boilers.