

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What Is Cross Connection?

Cross Connection is where there is the potential for water that may have become contaminated to flow back into a water system. This can happen due to improper connection or to connection not being properly protected. When this happens it is commonly called backflow.

2. What Is Backflow?

This is where water flows backwards from the point of use into the water system. This happens in one of two ways either thru Back Pressure or Back Siphonage.

3. What is Back Pressure?

Back pressure happens when the pressure in the system is higher than the supply pressure. Back pressure can be caused in several ways thru thermal expansion were a heating system or water heater is not properly vented or when pumps are used to boost pressure within a water system such as in a fire suppression system.

4. What is Back Siphonage?

This is the result of loss of pressure in the supply line due to a water main break, fire fighting operations or other interruption in service; this causes water from residences or business to be drawn back into the water system.

5. Why do I need to get my device tested every year?

Backflow devices are mechanical devices that can fail. They are tested yearly to ensure that they are working properly and would still be able to stop a backflow event from happening.

6. What are some places in my home and business where I might have Cross Connections?

There is a list within the backflow ordinance of areas that are of particular concern that you can consult. Several areas that are very common are lawn irrigation systems, hose connections, pools, and any businesses that perform work that involves chemical or biological agents.

Lawn irrigation systems are of concern because sprinkler heads are usually installed below ground level and have a potential for containments to be drawn back into the

system. In some cases lawn sprinklers are used to apply fertilizers and pesticides to lawns.

Hose connections are a concern because in many cases they are used for a variety of applications including cleaning and pesticide application which opens up the potential for chemicals being introduced into the water system.

Any business that deals with chemicals or biological agents on a day to day bases such as car washes, meat packing facilities, garages, funeral homes or doctors' offices.