

Examples of HOSE BIBB VACUUM BREAKERS



Examples of BACKFLOW PROTECTION

An air gap provides the highest level of protection. However, hose bibb vacuum breakers and RP assemblies can be suitable alternatives based on the degree of hazard for a given application.

In the “typical” home, inexpensive vacuum breakers provide adequate protection for most applications. Make sure to only use listed or approved devices; the device should have an ASSE stamp on it.

Who Is Responsible FOR ELIMINATING THE CROSS CONNECTION?

The property owner is responsible for eliminating any cross connections or installing any required devices.

What Areas Of My Home WILL THE INSPECTOR NEED TO SEE?

The inspector will need to see all potential hazard areas including the basement, sump pumps, outside spigots, and heating systems.

How Often WILL BUILDINGS BE INSPECTED, AND BY WHOM?

All residential and low hazard commercial buildings will be inspected by Public Works personnel when the water meter is changed out or serviced.

Help Protect Our Drinking Water from Contamination



About Backflow and Cross Contamination

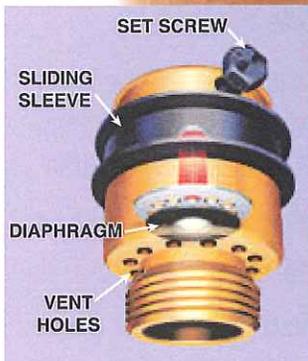
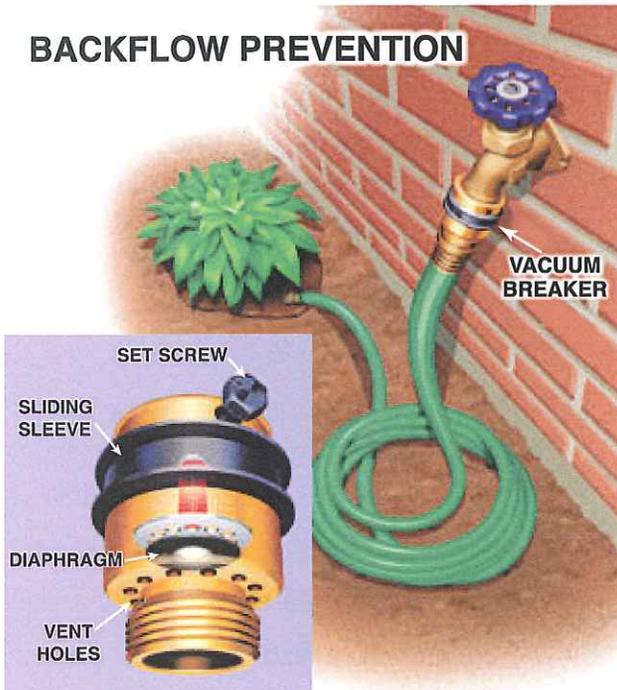


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BACKFLOW PREVENTION



What is a CROSS CONNECTION?

A cross connection is a connection between the public drinking water system and a source of possible contamination. All buildings have possible cross connections. Therefore, the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is requiring local water utilities to inspect buildings on a regular basis, identify cross connections, and ensure that building owners correct the problems as outlined in Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 810.15

Why SHOULD I BE CONCERNED?

Under certain circumstances, a cross connection can allow the backflow of undesirable toxic substances into your drinking water or the municipal water supply. This unwanted reversal of normal flow in the drinking water system may occur during system maintenance or repairs when water pressure is lower than normal. Although infrequent, backflow incidents usually occur when conditions known as back siphonage exist within the water supply system.

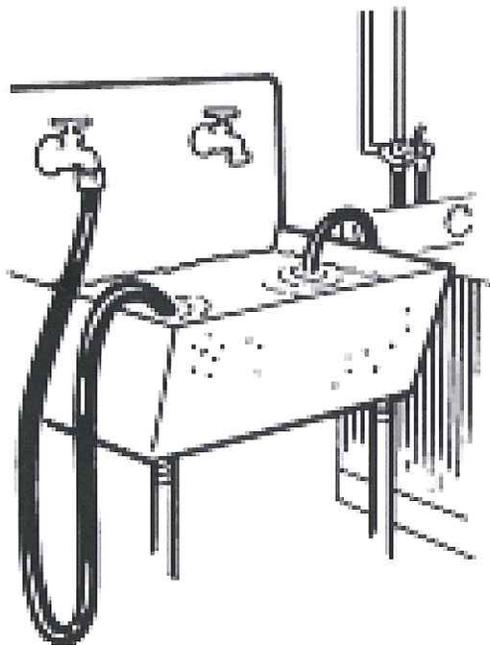
What is BACK SIPHONAGE?

Back siphonage is caused by negative pressure or a vacuum. It can occur during repairs resulting from a water main break, hydrant use for flushing, or firefighting. Each of these events can lower system water pressure and lead to back siphonage.

Examples of COMMON HOUSEHOLD HAZARDS

There are many systems found in residential, commercial, and industrial buildings that may cause cross connections if permanently or temporarily attached to the building plumbing.

- Garden hose with a container of fertilizer connected to an outside faucet;
- Submerged hose or hand-held shower head in a laundry tub or bath tub full of water;
- Underground lawn irrigation system;
- Swimming pools and hot tubs;
- Malfunctioning toilet ball valve;
- Boiler system for heating with chemical feed;
- Water softeners and other treatment systems



What You Can Do to PREVENT CONTAMINATION

DO:

- ✓ Install Hose Bibb Vacuum Breakers (ASSE Approval #1011) on all threaded faucets around your home.
- ✓ Prevent the end of any hose from being submerged in any sink, tub, or vessel connected to the sewer drain system or a source of contamination.
- ✓ Ensure dishwashers are installed with the proper “air-gap” device (most newer systems have internal air gaps). Contact the manufacturer if you have questions.
- ✓ Ensure any water treatment system drain lines, such as from water softeners, have the proper “air gap” of a minimum 1 inch above the top of any drain or sink rim.
- ✓ Visit www.appleton.org/watermeterinfo for more information.

DON'T:

- ✗ **Do Not** submerge hoses into buckets, pools, tubs, sinks, etc.
- ✗ **Do Not** use spray attachments like lawn fertilizers or herbicides and pesticides without a backflow prevention device.
- ✗ **Do Not** use a hose to unplug blocked toilets, sewer piping, etc.
- ✗ **Do Not** connect reuse lines to the drinking water supply.