

**A few tips on how to prevent your home or business from cross-connection**

- Do not use a garden hose to spray chemicals on your lawn or garden without backflow protection.
- Do not place your garden hose directly into a free standing body of water, such as a swimming pool or a bucket. Always create an air gap or install a hose bib vacuum breaker.
- When your water hose is not in use, always make sure your water is turned off at the spigot.



**A hose bib vacuum breaker can be inexpensively purchased at any local hardware store and is easy to install.**

**To obtain further information regarding cross-connection you may reference:**

*Recommended Practice for Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection Control*, available from the AWWA Bookstore; 6666 West Quincy Avenue; Denver, Colorado 80235; 800/926-7337  
<http://www.awwa.org/>

The ninth (1993) edition of the University of Southern California's *Manual of Cross-Connection Control*, available from the Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research; University of Southern California; KAP-200 University Park MC-2531; Los Angeles, California 90089-2531; 213/740-2032

<http://www.usc.edu/dept/fccchr>

If you would like further information or have any questions regarding backflow and cross-connection please contact the Department of Public Works, Water Division, (562) 868-0511, ext. 3601

**City of Santa Fe Springs  
City Council**

Ron Kernes Mayor George Minnehan Mayor Pro-Tem Louie Gonzalez Councilmember Betty Putnam Councilmember Gus Velasco Councilmember

City of Santa Fe Springs  
Department of  
Public Works  
Water Division



**Backflow  
and  
Cross-Connection  
Prevention**

**Working Together  
to Protect  
Safe Drinking Water**

***Fast Facts***

# PROTECTING YOUR HOME or BUSINESS AGAINST CROSS-CONNECTIONS

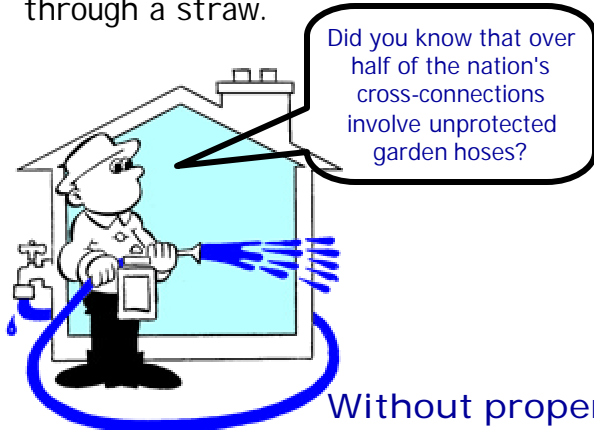
## Terms to help you understand Cross-Connection

### What is "backflow"?

It's just what it sounds like: the water is flowing in the opposite direction from its normal flow. With the direction of flow reversed, and with the change in water pressure, backflow can allow contaminants to enter our drinking water system through cross-connections.

### What is "backsiphonage"?

Backsiphonage is backflow caused by a reduction in water system pressure, causing a reversal of water direction flow and is similar to drinking water through a straw.



Without proper protection devices, something as simple as your garden hose has the potential to contaminate the City's water supply.

### What is "backpressure"?

Backpressure occurs when water is forced in the opposite direction of flow by a mechanical pump.

### What is "cross-connection"?

A cross-connection is a permanent or temporary piping arrangement which can allow your drinking water to be contaminated if a backflow condition occurs.

### When does cross-connection occur?

Cross-connection occurs every time someone uses a garden hose sprayer to apply insecticides or herbicides to their lawn. Cross-connection also occurs when someone uses their garden hose to clear a stoppage in their sewer line.

## Devices that could help prevent Cross-Connection

### Air Gap

A physical separation between the water source and its target.

The highest level of protection for your home or business  
Example: faucet water flowing into the drain.



### Reduced Pressure Principle (RP)

An RP is a mechanical backflow prevention device. An RP is effective against

and backsiphonage and may be used to isolate health or non-health hazards



### Pressure Vacuum Breaker (PVB)



A mechanical prevention device against backsiphonage that will not direct contaminated water out of the system.