

Why should I care?

It is everyone's responsibility to ensure our water is safe. Some everyday activities such as lawn irrigation, or even a simple hose bib, could cause a cross connection backflow incident of a catastrophic nature. A safe and active cross connection program helps protect you from unsafe contaminated water that has been introduced into the system by someone else unknowingly. If a cross connection incident occurs contaminated water may enter the city water distribution system and be spread among everyone. Yet it may not and just stay within your own plumbing system within your home.



Can I be held liable?

Hailey Ordinance 1140 states that any such cross connection now existing is declared a nuisance and shall be removed or abated upon order of the city.

If a cross connection incident occurs due to an improper plumbing connection, and causes a public health hazard, the responsible property owners and occupants may be held liable for damages.

Who should I contact?

If you want to know more information or if you have any questions, concerns or comments please feel free to call us or visit us online.

City of Hailey Water Dept.

Bryson Ellsworth
Cross Connection Program Manager
(208)578-2211 x1-4
www.haileycityhall.org/publicworks/index.asp



Where do cross connections commonly happen in the home?

Household cross connections are common. Here are some examples of the most common places incidents can or do occur.

- Underground lawn irrigation systems
- Hose bibs
- Hot tubs and swimming pools
- Sinks
- Submerged hoses
- Chemical spray applicators



City of Hailey Water Department

CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM FOR SAFE DRINKING WATER



Helping us help you to protect
YOUR drinking water.

RESIDENTIAL

What is cross connection?

A cross connection is when a plumbing system of potable water connects to a non-potable water source without a device in place to prevent backflow. At this point the potable water is contaminated, making it non-potable. If contaminated water enters the public water distribution system it could spread like wildfire, contaminating everything and everyone who touches, drinks or uses the contaminated water.



What is backflow?

Backflow is the unwanted flow of non-potable substances into the plumbing system and/or the public drinking water distribution system.

There are two different types of backflow.

- **Backpressure** occurs when the potable water supply is connected to another water system with a higher pressure, which can cause backflow.
- **Backsiphonage** occurs when there is negative pressure in the supply line, which can cause backflow.

How to prevent contamination of your drinking water.

Don't:

- Submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, sinks or water features/ponds.
- Use spray attachment without a backflow prevention device.
- Use a hose to unplug blocked toilets, sewers, or introduce to any wastewater material.

Do:

- Keep the ends of hoses clear of all possible contaminants.
- If not already equipped with built-in vacuum breakers, install hose bib type vacuum breakers on all faucets.
- Install an approved backflow prevention assembly within minimum standards of the City of Hailey on all underground lawn irrigation systems.

Common household hazards.

Underground lawn irrigation systems are a very common place for backflow incidents. Sprinkler heads are not designed to be drip-tight under backflow conditions. The water siphoned in through these sprinkler heads may contain contaminants, such as excrement from animals, chemical residue from fertilizer and herbicides sprayed on the lawn.

Submerged hoses are another common place for backflow incidents. Water held in pools, hot tubs, buckets, ponds or other vats, even while filling, may be contaminated.

Annual Testing Requirement

The City of Hailey requires that all cross connection prevention devices be tested upon installation and that they also be tested annually by a certified backflow assembly tester at cost to the owner.

