



Protect Your Drinking Water: Prevent Cross Connections and Backflow!

Bad habits in your home can create what plumbers call a "cross connection." Cross connections can allow dirt, unsafe water and chemicals to get sucked into your drinking water. This is called "backflow," and it can make you and your neighbors sick.

Cross Connections are against the law!



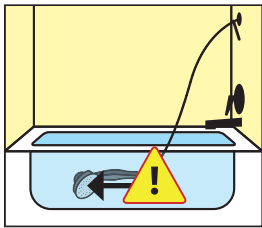
Creating a cross connection at your home isn't just dangerous: **it's against the law! If a cross connection is found at your home, it can lead to water**

shutoffs. Be safe and smart. Know a cross connection when you see it **and fix it!**

What Does a Cross Connection Look Like?

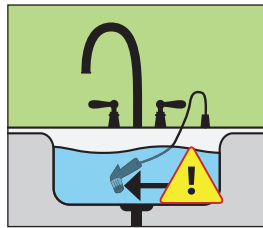
While these mistakes are easy to make, they are also easy to fix.

An unsafe cross connection and backflow can be caused by doing any of these things:



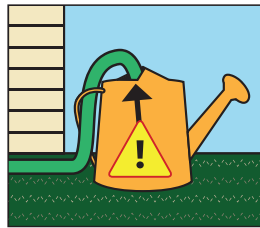
Bathroom

A detachable showerhead sitting in a tub can pull unsafe water into your drinking water. Make sure your showerhead is never under the water.



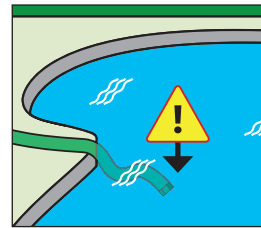
Sinks

A hose connected to your kitchen or basement utility sink can let dangerous water get sucked in. Make sure the hose stays out of the water. If you have a hose screwed into a utility sink faucet, take it off after use.



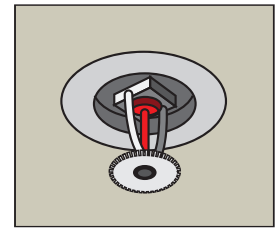
Garden

Leaving a hose attached to a pesticide or fertilizer sprayer may cause those chemicals to enter your drinking water. A garden hose sitting in a puddle or watering can also makes a cross connection. Tip: always unscrew the hose at the spigot after use.



Pool

Although it may be easy to leave a hose under water when filling a pool, this can bring dirty water into your drinking water pipes. Instead, set up your hose so it stays out of the pool and above the water.



Fire Sprinklers

If you have a fire sprinkler system in your home, you may require a backflow preventer. Please read our Frequently Asked Questions at www.phila.gov/water/cc.html.

For more information, please contact:

Philadelphia Water Department
Cross Connection Control Program

✉ CCC.BLS@phila.gov

🖱 www.phila.gov/water/cc.html