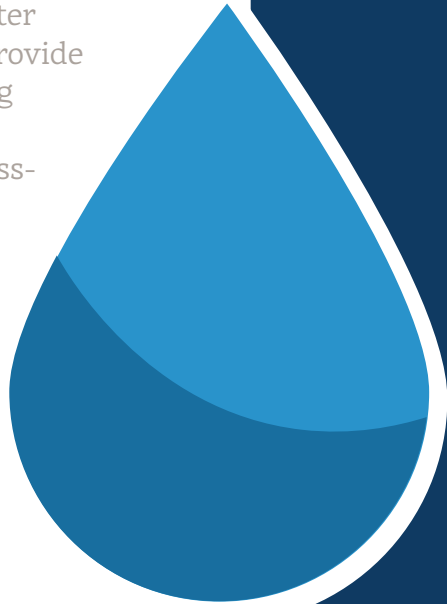




Protect Your Drinking Water

The City of Springfield is dedicated to providing its residents with the necessary amenities required for a high quality of life. This includes having a safe and reliable source of drinking water. Even though City staff continue to supply clean and safe drinking water that meets or exceeds Environmental Protection Agency standards, sometimes instances occur that can compromise tap water quality. This pamphlet will provide information about preventing those situations, most commonly, backflow and cross-connections.

For more information regarding the City of Springfield, please visit our website at springfieldohio.gov and follow us on Facebook



If you have questions about cross-connection and backflow prevention, please contact us at:

Springfield Service Department

2100 Lagonda Ave.
Springfield, Ohio
937-525-5800



Residential Cross-Connection and Backflow

PREVENTION





Above: Outdoor spigot with anti-siphon valve (l), hose bib without vacuum breaker (m), hose bib with vacuum breaker (r)

Protect Your Water QUALITY

DO:

- Keep the ends of hoses off the ground and clear of possible contaminants.
- Install vacuum breakers on all hose bibs without anti-siphon valves.
- Install a backflow prevention device on all underground lawn irrigation systems.

DON'T:

- Submerge hoses in standing water such as buckets, swimming pools, tubs, sinks or ponds.
- Use spray hose attachments without a backflow prevention device.
- Use a hose to unplug blocked toilets or sewer pipes.

Cross-Connection

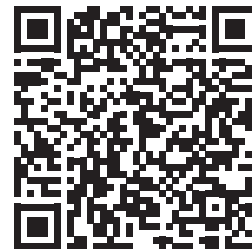
What is a cross-connection?

A cross-connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a water source that is not safe to drink. Potential cross-connections can be found in all plumbing systems, and a backflow can occur if a cross-connection is present. Common household cross-connections include garden hoses, lawn irrigation, jacuzzis, swimming pools and toilet fill valves.

Why prevent cross-connections?

The most common source of a residential cross connection is a garden hose. If you fill up a bucket and submerge your hose in it, you now have a cross connection between the drinking water and the bucket. If the pressure in the water main drops, the contaminated water in the hose could be sucked back into the pipes connected to your drinking water.

To read more about cross connections, go to Springfield's Codified Ordinances, Chapter 913, "Cross Connection Control and Water Quality Protection."



Backflow

What is backflow?

Backflow is the undesired reverse of the water flow in water drinking pipes. This backward flow of water can occur when pressure from other sources, such as a hot water tank, is higher than the pressure in the water pipe. It can also occur when the pressure in the water pipe drops due to something unusual such as a water main break.

How do I prevent backflow?

If your outdoor spigots lack an anti-siphon valve, you can install a backflow prevention device on your hose bib, which will act as a physical block to the flow. These low-cost devices are available for outside or inside connections and can be purchased at most hardware stores.

