Cross-Connection

&

Backflow Prevention Policy

What is a cross-connection? According to TCEQ 290.38(12), a cross-connection is a physical or potential connection between a public water supply and:

1. Another supply of unknown or questionable quality.
2. A source which may contain polluting or contaminating substances.
3. Any water source treated to a lesser degree.

Walnut Creek SUD is updating our policy for cross-connection and backflow prevention. The customer will have 45 days to comply with our policy once a cross-connection or potential cross-connection has been identified. After which time **IF the customer fails to come into compliance with the policy, WATER SERVICE will be terminated until customer is in compliance with the cross-connection and backflow prevention policy.**

Irrigation Systems

- Irrigation Systems can only be connected to one water source (Public Water Supply, Lake, or Well). If more than one source is available to you the system **cannot** be connected to both. **If it is determined that the system has more than one source of water that is in violation.**
- All irrigation systems connected to Public Water Supply are required to have a Double Check Valve (DCV) and be tested annually by a licensed BPAT tester. **However if you do not have it tested annually it is in violation.**

Outside Faucets

- All outside faucets that are connected to the Public Water Supply are required to have anti-siphoning devices installed and functioning properly.
- Required devices are Hosebib Vacuum Breaker (HBVB) or Anti-Siphon faucet.

Inside Plumbing

- Toilets must have anti-siphon ballcocks installed and functioning properly.

Wells

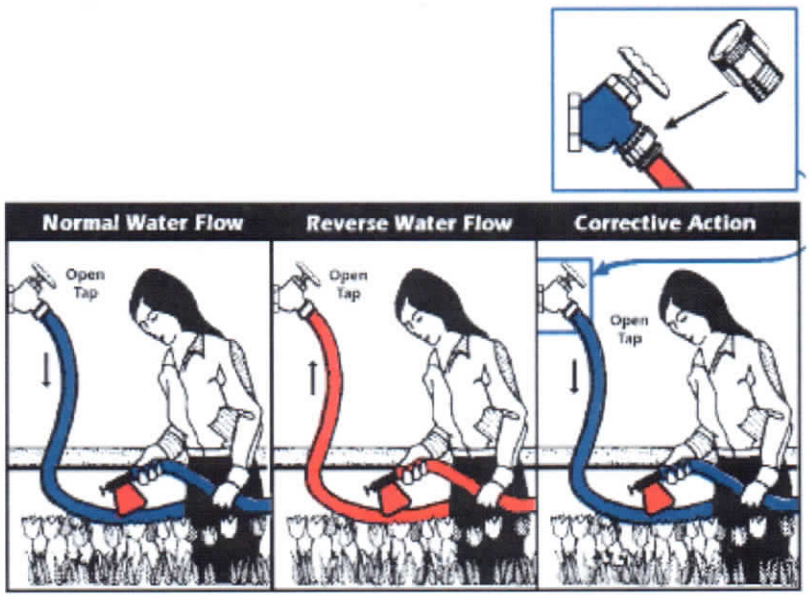
- If a **WELL** is present on the customers property it has to have a physical separation from the public water supply (valves are not an effective method). This separation must be a minimum of 18 inches and be capped to insure that a connection between the two systems cannot be made i.e. the customer cannot switch from their well and the public water supply.
- You can use the well for irrigation purposes.

A single check valve should be installed on the customer's side of the water meter and be contained in its own meter box as well as a cutoff valve. This device cannot be used in place of any other devices that we require.

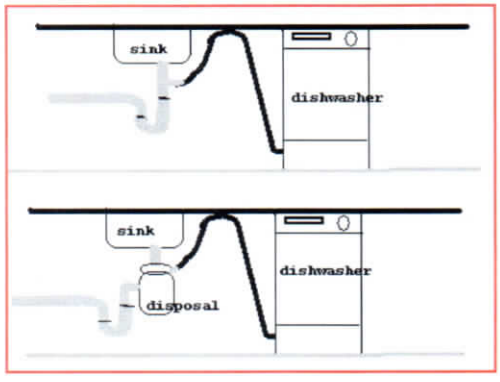
Common Cross-Connection

These are a few examples of how the public water supply can become contaminated and why it is important that everyone works together on keeping the public water supply safe.

Without the use of a HBVB (hosebib vacuum breaker) or anti-siphon faucet the public water supply can potentially be contaminated by garden sprayers (weed killer, fertilizer) that connect to the garden hose. This also includes when a garden hose is left submerged in a body water i.e. swimming pool/hot tub, water trough.



Cross-Connections can happen inside the home as well as outside the home. Like the return line on the dishwasher laying on the bottom of the cabinet. It should be fastened to the underside of the counter top to create a barometric loop.



Once again these are just a few ways that the public water system can be contaminated. These are not the only ways. We all have to work together in keeping our drinking water safe to drink and free of contaminates. So a good rule of thumb to remember is water always flows to the path of least resistance, and without the backflow prevention devices installed and functioning properly there is the potential to be all sorts of contaminates siphoned into water main if it were a main line break in your area.