

What is a Cross Connection?

Water can become contaminated if connections to your plumbing system are not properly protected. A **cross connection** is an actual or potential connection between the safe drinking water (potable) supply and a source of contamination or pollution.

Water normally flows in one direction. However, under certain conditions, water can actually flow backwards. This is known as **backflow**. There are two situations that can cause water to flow backward:

Backsiphonage may occur due to a loss of pressure in the municipal water system during a fire-fighting emergency, a water main break, or a system repair. This creates a siphon in your plumbing system which can draw water out of a sink or bucket and back into your water or the public water system.

Backpressure may be created when a source of pressure (such as a boiler) creates a pressure greater than the pressure supplied from the public water system. This may cause contaminated water to be pushed into your plumbing system through an unprotected cross connection.

To avoid contamination, backflow preventers are required by state plumbing codes wherever there is an actual or potential hazard for a cross connection.

For more information:

WI Department of Commerce
www.commerce.state.wi.us

WI Department of Natural Resources
www.dnr.wi.gov

Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov



Cross Connection Hazards

Information for Residential Water Customers



**City of Monona
Water Utility**
5211 Schluter Rd.
Monona, WI 53716
(608) 222-2525
www.mymonona.com

City of Monona
Water Utility



Outside

Hoses, Pools, Buckets, Ponds

Keep the ends of hoses clear of all possible contaminants, and never submerge hoses which are connected to a faucet in buckets, pools, tubs, sinks, or ponds. For extra protection, install a bib vacuum breaker (right) on your faucet.

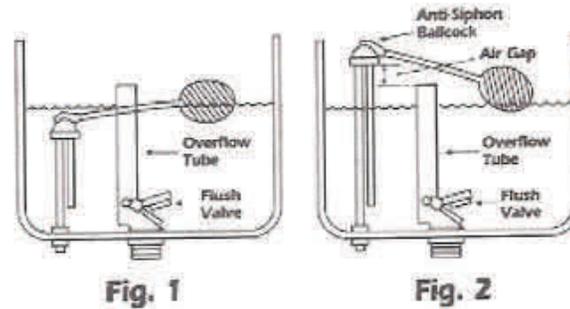


Don't use spray attachments without a proper backflow device.

In the Bathroom

Toilets and Showerheads

While most toilets come from the manufacturer with the proper ballcock assembly, some do not. Make sure your toilet tanks have the approved **ASSE 1002 Anti-Siphon Ballcock Assembly** backflow preventer installed. If they don't, you can purchase the assembly at most local home improvement stores for under \$25. Make sure you look for the approved ASSE 1002 assembly, as unapproved products which do not meet the state requirements may also be sold at retailers.



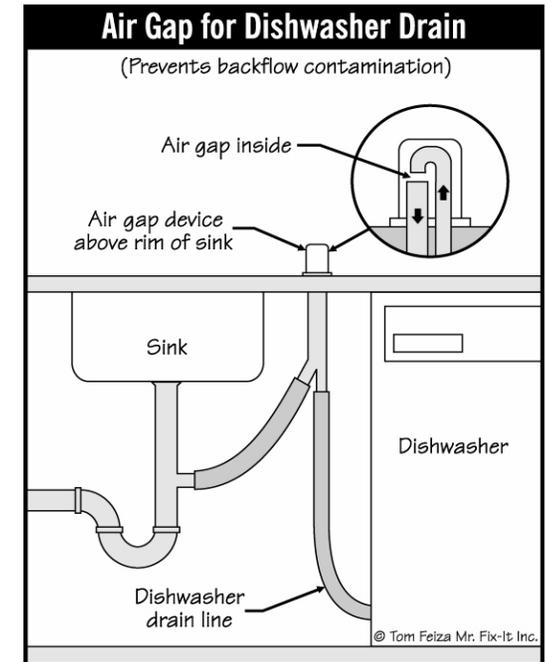
Hand-held shower heads which comply with state regulations for cross connection will have the code **ASME 112.18.1** stamped on the handle. In addition, make sure your hand-held shower head is at least 1 inch above the top of the flood level rim of the tub when it's hanging freely.

In the Kitchen

Sinks, Faucets, Dishwashers

All hoses connected to sinks/faucets, dishwashers, and water treatment devices must have proper backflow prevention devices or methods.

Dishwashers should be installed with a proper "air gap" device.



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Water softeners and faucets should have the proper "air gap" which is a minimum of 1 inch above any drain or fixture outlet.

