Fort Belvoir
Residential Customers

HELP PREVENT CROSS CONNECTION AND BACKFLOW

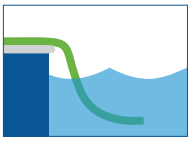
To help protect your drinking water and the health of our communities, customers are required to install proper backflow prevention equipment.

SAFE DRINKING WATER IS PRICELESS

Unsafe habits inside and outside the home can result in a cross connection. When this happens, water of lesser quality backflow into the community's water system.

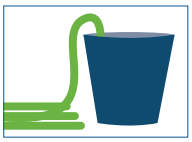
CROSS CONNECTION PREVENTION TIPS

Do NOT leave a hose connected to a pesticide or fertilizer sprayer, which could cause the chemicals to enter your water supply. **Tip:** Install hose bibb vacuum breakers on fixtures used for hose connections, including outdoor, basement and laundry room spigots.



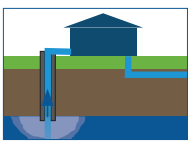
Do NOT submerge a hose under water when filling a pool. Tip: Set up the hose so it stays out of the pool and above the water.

Do NOT connect to or tamper with fire hydrants. Tip: The only individuals who are authorized to use fire hydrants are American Water employees and authorized contractors for maintenance purposes and fire department personnel for fire fighting.



Do NOT allow a garden hose to sit in a puddle, watering can or bucket of soapy water. **Tips:** Maintain air gaps. Avoid submerging hoses (or faucets) and place them where they can not become submerged. Disconnect the hose at the spigot after use.

Do NOT use toilets that are not outfitted with anti-siphon protection. Tip: Check if toilets are outfitted with anti-siphon ballcock assemblies.



Do NOT connect to auxiliary water sources (private well, spring, cistern). This is not allowed when connected to a public water supply. See page 2 for more information. **Tip:** Contact American Water at Fort Belvoir for more information.

QUALITY. ONE MORE WAY WE KEEP LIFE FLOWING.

VDH REGULATION EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2023

Starting January 1, 2023, persons testing and repairing backflow prevention assemblies and backflow prevention devices shall be certified by a Commonwealth of Virginia tradesman certification program (identified by DPOR as backflow prevention device workers).

AMERICAN WATER
Military Services

WE KEEP LIFE FLOWING®

05-2024

WHAT IS CROSS CONNECTION AND BACKFLOW?

Cross Connection is any actual or physical connection between a potable (drinkable) water supply and any source of non-potable liquid, solid or gas that could contaminate drinking water under certain circumstances.

Backflow is the reverse flow of water or other substances through a cross connection into the treated water distribution system. There are two types of backflow: backpressure and backsiphonage.

Backpressure occurs when the pressure of the contaminant source exceeds the positive pressure in the water distribution main. An example would be if a potable water supply main has a connection to a hot water boiler system that is not protected by an approved and functioning backflow preventer. If pressure in the boiler system increases to where it exceeds the pressure in the water distribution system, backflow from the boiler to the water supply system may occur.

Backsiphonage is caused by a negative pressure (vacuum or partial vacuum) in the water distribution system. This situation is similar in effect to sipping water through a straw. Negative pressure in the drinking water distribution system can occur because of a water main break or when a hydrant is used for fire fighting.

BEST PREVENTION AGAINST CROSS CONNECTION AND BACKFLOW: WHAT YOU SHOULD DO!

1. Install a backflow preventer, such as a residential dual check, on your home's water service line.
2. Ensure that you have an approved, testable backflow prevention device present on lawn irrigation and fire sprinkler systems. The device must be tested every year.
3. Install hose bibb vacuum breakers on fixtures used for hose connections, including outdoor, basement and laundry room spigots.
4. Maintain air gaps. Do not submerge hoses or faucets or place hoses where they can become submerged.
5. Outfit toilets with anti-siphon ballcock assemblies.

GUIDELINES FOR INSTALLING BACKFLOW DEVICES ON WATER SERVICE CONNECTIONS

Backflow devices are typically installed by qualified installers close to the water meter or other approved location. Devices should always be installed on the customers' side of the meter (the side that leads to the internal plumbing). There is typically an arrow on the check valve itself, which indicates the direction of water flow. This arrow should be pointing away from the meter and toward the internal plumbing.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Have questions or need help determining if you are in compliance with cross connection requirements? Contact us:

- **By Phone:** 571-339-8087
- **In Person:** 6035 16th Street, Building 739, Fort Belvoir
- **By Email:** Submit any non-emergency requests at fortbelvoirsubmittals@amwater.com

To learn more about backflow prevention and qualified testers, scan the QR code or visit **amwater.com/corp/products-services/military-services/fort-belvoir**

WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT BACKFLOW PREVENTION?

Backflow may affect the quality of the water at your home, business or facility. It has the potential to create health hazards if contaminated water enters the public water supply. Unprotected cross connections with water supply plumbing or public drinking water piping systems are prohibited.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE TO PAY FOR BACKFLOW EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE?

Costs related to purchasing backflow equipment, as well as the installation and maintenance, is the responsibility of the customer. This includes complying with the plumbing code. It is recommended that customers obtain more than one cost estimate before installing.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T COMPLY?

Failure to comply with cross connection requirements can result in water service disconnection.

WHAT REGULATIONS AND PLUMBING CODES APPLY?

- **Virginia Administrative Code:** Water works regulation (12 VAC5-590-610)
- **State of Virginia Plumbing Code:** Section 608

Any water or sewer projects or potential connections impacting Fort Belvoir American Water must be reviewed AND approved by American Water. This includes any temporary connections to hydrants or other infrastructure.