

# Thorndike Fire and Water District

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## Safeguarding Your Home and Your Neighbors' from Cross Connections

A cross connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to any equipment or system containing chemicals or water of questionable quality, where backflow may occur into the drinking water line.

Water of questionable quality or chemicals used in a system or equipment can end up in the drinking water line as result of "back pressure" or "back siphonage."

Cross connections can occur at boilers, air conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems, laboratory equipment, etc. (a water feed to a boiler, a water line to a chemical tank, a garden hose connected to an outside spigot on one end and submerged below the surface of a swimming pool on the other end, a garden hose with a fertilizer/pesticide spray attachment)

Thorndike Fire & Water District urges homeowners to install a backflow prevention device, such as a low coast House Bib Vacuum Breaker, for all inside and outside hose connections. This type of device can be purchased at a hardware or plumbing store. Lawn irrigation systems, a properly installed backflow preventer must be evaluated and installed to meet Plumbing Code and Massachusetts Cross Connection Control Regulations.