

Cross Connection Control Program

[Blank Test Form](#)

[Certified Tester List](#)

[Gauge Certification List](#)



The City of Wyoming recognizes that protecting our drinking water distribution system from contamination is extremely important. A potential contamination hazard to the drinking water system is called a cross connection. A **cross connection** can be any actual or potential connection between the drinking water supply (a faucet) and a source of contamination or pollution (a lawn chemical injector). A reversal of the normal flow in a water system (due to a water line break, fire, or similar) is called backsiphonage or backpressure, and can allow contamination to enter the drinking water supply.

Backsiphonage takes place when a vacuum is created on a plumbing system, similar to drinking out of a straw in a glass of water. A garden hose or hose connected to a laundry tub can have the same effect as the "drinking straw" drawing undesirable liquids into the drinking water system in the event of water flow reversal.

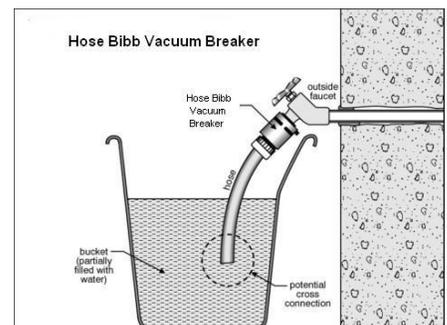
Backpressure can cause a reverse flow due to a high pressure boiler, lawn chemical injector, or any equipment connected to the water system that would have a higher pressure than the water service line, thereby forcing contaminated water back into the distribution line. In order to stop contamination from entering the drinking water supply through backsiphonage or backpressure, a mechanical device called a backflow preventer can be installed. This device will prevent contamination from entering the drinking water supply and eliminate a cross-connection, if properly maintained.

The Wyoming Utilities Department has had a DEQ approved Cross Connection Control Program in effect since 1972 to identify and eliminate any cross connections between potential contamination sources and the drinking water system. Utilizing Tablet PCs with the [XC2® C/C Software](#), our Environmental Services Inspectors conduct site surveys at all commercial and industrial facilities. This software tracks all the backflow devices installed at these facilities which require annual testing by a State Certified Tester. Test notices are mailed out each year requiring certification that the device is working satisfactory to provide adequate protection for our water distribution system.



All homeowners with lawn irrigation systems are required by law to have a backflow prevention device installed. Different types of hazards require different types of backflow prevention devices; please feel free to contact us to help you identify possible cross connections in your home. A licensed plumber can install the correct devices necessary to protect you and the City's water system from contamination. The MDEQ Cross Connections Rules require that all testable backflow devices installed at your home be tested periodically to verify that they are working properly. These tests must be completed by a [State Certified Tester](#), please forward all test forms to this office. See link at top for a list of companies that test backflow devices in the City of Wyoming or to download a blank test form for your device.

A **hose bibb vacuum breaker** (HBVB) is a type of backflow preventer. It is one of the simplest and cheapest ways of preventing low and high hazard back-siphonage through the attached hoses and should be installed on all hose outlets. For applications where freezing conditions may exist, a different type of HBVB is available with a means to drain the device. Please verify your type of hose bibb as many frost-free hose bibbs now available for purchase have a vacuum breaker built into them and already provide adequate protection to a hose connection.



If you are a Plumbing or Mechanical Contractor, please be aware that the City of Wyoming's C/C program now requires that all Certified Testers have their test gauges certified for accuracy annually. See the link at top for a list of some of the companies that have certified test gauges in the past for contractors testing devices in the City of Wyoming.

Please contact our Cross Connection Control Department at 616-261-3568, if you have any questions.