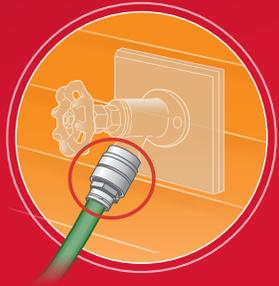


**Cross-connections are not only unsafe, they are illegal and must be protected.**

*Any hose is a cross-connection when left submerged in a swimming pool, laundry sink, or car wash bucket.*



*To protect against these common cross-connections, check to see if you have air vacuum breakers installed on each of your hose bibs.*

*These simple devices are inexpensive and can be purchased from your local hardware store. They are easy to install; you just screw them on.*

Some cross-connections require more advanced protection. If your home has a heating system, hot tub or landscaping water feature that includes a directly plumbed water supply, this is a cross-connection and must be protected with a special valve called a “Reduced Pressure Backflow Assembly”, (RPBA).

If your property receives City water and also has a well or other supply of water, such as a pump drawing water from a lake or creek, this is also a cross-connection and must be protected with an RPBA.

Please contact the City of Lacey Cross Connection Specialist at (360) 413-4341 for more information about cross-connections and backflow assemblies.



Water Resources  
P.O. Box 3400  
Lacey, WA 98509-3400

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# Tips for Keeping Your Drinking Water Safe

In Your Home and Around Our Community





## Every time you turn on the faucet

You expect a flow of high quality, clean drinking water. Unfortunately, clean drinking water isn't something you should take for granted. We all need to do our part to ensure that our homes have the clean water we expect each and every day.

## Did you know common hazards in and around your house can contaminate your drinking water as well as your neighbors?



These hazards are known as cross-connections, and can result in contaminated water backflowing into your home's drinking supply without you even knowing.

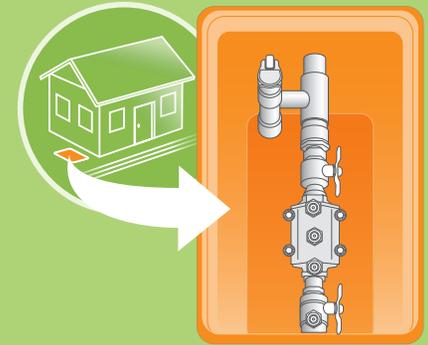
If your home's water supply becomes contaminated, your neighbors' water is at risk as well. That's because contaminated water from inside your house can backflow into the public water system and into the drinking water of those around you. Normally this wouldn't happen, but if the public water system loses pressure, backflow from your house can occur.



**Your in-ground, irrigation system is a cross-connection** and requires your attention. In-ground landscape irrigation systems are the most common cross-connection found in Lacey's water system. Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-290-490, and Lacey Municipal Code (LMC) 13.48.070, require that all irrigation systems be isolated from the water system with a special valve called a backflow prevention assembly. *If your property has an in-ground irrigation system it is your responsibility to make sure these steps are followed.*

### 1 Confirm that your irrigation system has an approved backflow assembly.

The backflow prevention assembly is a brass valve usually found between your water meter & the point where your water service line enters your home, normally in a small green vault similar to a meter box. If your irrigation system does not include a backflow prevention assembly, city code requires that you install an approved Double Check Valve Assembly (DCVA), per city standards.



### 2 Test the backflow prevention assembly annually.

By code the assembly must be tested by a Washington State Department of Health certified Backflow Assembly Tester (BAT), immediately upon installation and annually thereafter. Testing is also required following any repairs or after an assembly has been moved.

The City of Lacey maintains a list of certified BAT's who have expressed interest in completing testing in this area. Please visit [www.ci.lacey.wa.us](http://www.ci.lacey.wa.us) and search "cross-connection control".

*Helpful Hint: Work through your local home-owner's association or with your neighbors to have all of your homes tested on the same day. This can help reduce the costs for each individual home owner.*

### 3 Make sure the test results are reported to Lacey Water Resources.

Normally, your hired BAT will submit the test results to the City for you, but it is your responsibility to make sure the test results are submitted in a timely manner.

*Test results should be submitted to:*

**City of Lacey, Water Resources**

*Attention:* Cross Connection Specialist

PO Box 3400

Lacey, WA. 98509-3400

FAX 360-456-7799

For more information, call Public Works at 360.491.5600 or visit us at [www.ci.lacey.wa.us](http://www.ci.lacey.wa.us)