Understanding Cross-Connection Control & Backflow Prevention

Your drinking water is worth protecting. The Cross-Connection Control Program helps protect public drinking water from contamination caused by water flowing backward into the drinking water system. Residents and businesses play an important role in preventing these hazards.

What Is Cross-Connection Control?

Utah requires public water systems to maintain a Cross-Connection Control Program under **Utah Administrative Code R309-105-12**. The program identifies potential hazards and ensures that cross-connections are eliminated or properly protected.

Know the Terms

- **Cross-Connection:** Any actual or potential connection between drinking water and another source that could introduce contaminants into the drinking water system.
- **Backflow:** The unwanted reversal of water flow, potentially allowing contaminated water to enter clean drinking water pipes.
- **Backflow Prevention Assembly:** An approved device or assembly installed to help prevent water from flowing backward and contaminating the drinking water supply.
- **Potable Water:** Water that is safe for drinking.
- **Non-Potable Water:** Water that is not intended or approved for drinking, such as irrigation water or water containing chemicals.

What Should You Look For?

Keep an eye out for potential cross-connection hazards around your home, business, or property:

- **Garden hoses:** Hoses submerged in buckets, pools, livestock troughs, or containers containing chemicals.
- **Irrigation systems:** Sprinkler systems, drip irrigation, or other irrigation connections without appropriate backflow protection.
- **Swimming pools and hot tubs:** Hoses or plumbing connections that could allow pool or spa water to enter the drinking water system.
- **Chemical and fertilizer equipment:** Connections used to fill sprayers, fertilizer tanks, or chemical-mixing containers.
- **Auxiliary water supplies:** Connections between public drinking water and private wells, storage tanks, or other water sources.
- **Backflow prevention assemblies:** Missing, damaged, leaking, bypassed, or visibly altered equipment.

These examples identify potential hazards, not automatic violations. The required protection depends on the specific plumbing arrangement and hazard.

Grand Water & Sewer Service Agency
3025 E. Spanish Tr. Road
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Why Is It Important?

Backflow can occur when water pressure changes, such as during a water main break or when pumps affect system pressure. Without proper protection, contaminants—including fertilizers, pesticides, chemicals, bacteria, and other pollutants—may enter drinking water pipes.

Cross-connection control helps protect:

- Your family's drinking water.
- Your neighbors and the surrounding community.
- Public health and the integrity of the drinking water system.

How Can You Help?

1. **Use hoses safely.** Keep hose ends out of standing water, pools, chemical containers, and other potential contamination sources.
2. **Maintain required protection.** Make sure required backflow prevention assemblies are installed, maintained, and tested as applicable.
3. **Never bypass or remove an assembly.** Contact a qualified professional if equipment needs repair or replacement.
4. **Report suspected hazards.** If you see a possible cross-connection, damaged backflow assembly, or unsafe plumbing connection, notify GWSSA.

How to Report a Concern

Contact **Grand Water & Sewer Service Agency (GWSSA)** to report a suspected cross-connection or backflow prevention concern.

When reporting, please provide:

- The property address or location.
- A description of what you observed.
- The type of equipment or connection involved, if known.
- A photograph, if available and safely obtained.

Please do not touch, disconnect, or attempt to repair unfamiliar plumbing or backflow equipment.

GWSSA can review the information and determine whether further investigation is needed. If you suspect that drinking water has already been contaminated, contact GWSSA promptly.

Protecting our water is a community effort.

For additional information about Utah's Cross-Connection Control Program, visit the Utah Division of Drinking Water: https://deq.utah.gov/ddw/ccc-backflow-prevention

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