



Can you give some examples of cross connections?

- A hose is submerged in polluted or contaminated water
- A secondary source of irrigation water (from a well or pond) is pumped into an irrigation system that is directly connected to the potable water supply system
- A heating boiler with treatment chemical added to prevent internal corrosion is connected directly to the water supply for

make-up water

An underground lawn sprinkler system is directly connected to the water supply system

A fountain or swimming pool has a direct connection with the water system for filling

In all of these examples, a sudden drop in water pressure could draw contaminants – chemicals, fertilizer, soapy water or even bacteria -- back into your pipes and your drinking water supply. Any of these contaminants could be hazardous to your health if ingested.

The best way to prevent this potential contamination is to eliminate the cross connection. This could mean simply making sure that you never leave a hose submerged in a tub of water or that you never apply fertilizer to your lawn with a hose-aspirator device. In some cases (such as the lawn sprinkling system example noted above) the cross connection cannot be eliminated and the only means of protection is by installation of an approved backflow prevention device.