

## CROSS-CONNECTIONS

A cross-connection is when the public water system's line come in contact with the customer's lines in such a way that could allow contaminants from the customer to flow backwards, or be back-siphoned into the public water system. A good example of how this can happen is if someone is using an attachment on their garden hose to apply chemicals to their lawn. While doing so, their main water line breaks or heavy use from a nearby fire hydrant could create a negative water pressure or vacuum effect at that residence. This could cause a back flow or back siphoning of the lawn chemicals into the residence's plumbing, and even back into the public water supply.

Another cross-connection situation that can happen is when someone uses their garden hose to help unstop a clogged drain or sewer line by submerging the hose into the line while trying to use the water pressure to unstop the line. If a back flow situation developed while this was happening, there is the potential for sewage to be back siphoned into our drinking water supply.

We don't want to alarm anyone. The chances of these situations happening are very small. But when considering the possible consequences, the County's goal is to have a zero chance. The best way you can prevent back flow from your water spigot is to install what is called a vacuum breaker. This device threads on between the water spigot and garden hose. If you lose water pressure it would prevent any back flow by breaking the vacuum effect of a negative water pressure and eliminate any possible back siphoning or flow reversal. Vacuum breakers are not expensive, and can be found at the hardware stores. For your own protection, as well as others, the County recommends that all customers install a vacuum breaker on all outside water spigots. Vacuum breakers may prevent some water spigots and yard hydrants from draining. Please read manufactures recommendations for winter draining or purchase the frost-proof type that self-drains.

Another area of concern regarding cross-connections is anyone that is hooked up to County water and sewer, and is also hooked up to a private well. The situation of having our public water supply hooked directly to an untested water source may not be safe. To ensure that safety of everyone's drinking water, the County has no choice but to require anyone that is connected to the County's water and sewer system have their plumbing physically disconnected from any private well or have an approved back flow prevention device installed to prevent the well from flowing into the County's water system.

Enclosed is a yearly questionnaire to follow the progress of our program. While not required, we would appreciate it, if you would complete and return the survey as soon as possible. Your cooperation's is needed for us to have an effective program to eliminate cross-connections in our water system. By working together we can all help keep our drinking water safer.

# CROSS-CONNECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## Property Owner if not current resident:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please check any items that may apply to your premises:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> outside spigots without vacuum breaker                   | <input type="checkbox"/> swimming pool                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> animal watering trough                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> shampoo bowl/sink                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> private well, spring or cistern                          | <input type="checkbox"/> darkroom/photo development       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> frost-proof spigot with vacuum breaker                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Jacuzzi/hot tub                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> frost-proof spigot without vacuum breaker                | <input type="checkbox"/> lawn irrigation sprinkler system |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fire protection sprinkler system                         | <input type="checkbox"/> baptismal pool                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mop sink/laundry sink/utility sink with hose bib threads | <input type="checkbox"/> dye vat                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> steam or hot water heating system                        | <input type="checkbox"/> carbonated drink machine         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> yard hydrant/yard spigot/standpipe                       | <input type="checkbox"/> fish pond                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pressure booster pump                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> solar heating system             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dialysis equipment                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> water storage tank               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hose end sprayer for fertilizer or other chemicals       | <input type="checkbox"/> pressure washers                 |

Please offer a brief description of any other items or treatment units connected to the water system on your property:

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Please list any existing cross connection control devices you have installed and if they appear to be working properly:

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Any additional comments:

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Please return this form to: Carroll County PSA  
605-2 Pine Street  
Hillsville, VA 24343 Phone # (276)730-3170