



Cross Connection Control and Backflow Prevention Information for Commercial Customers of the North Raynham Water District

What is a Cross Connection?

A Cross Connection is any actual or potential connection between the public water supply and a source of contamination or pollution.

Under the right conditions, if this type of connection is not protected by a proper safety device, can allow a backflow of water or other liquids, mixtures, or substances into the potable supply of water.

What is Backflow and how can it happen?

There are two types of conditions that can cause backflow. They are backpressure and backsiphonage.

Backpressure is when the pressure inside the business is higher than the supply pressure from the district caused by a pump, pressure tank, boiler, etc.

or any other means, which may cause backflow.

Backsiphonage is backflow caused by reduced or negative pressure in the districts supply piping. (a water main break.)

What's in your Business?

The types of cross connections that can be found in the business are usually associated with a Fire Sprinkler System or the type of product being manufactured. Medical buildings are especially dangerous due to the types of equipment that is being used. A hose laying in a sink or bucket of detergent or other contaminate can be a potential source of contamination under the right condition. Outside faucets, also called sill cocks, can also be a problem on older homes. New homes are required to have a hose bibb vacuum breaker installed.

Remember: The first area of contamination would be

within your business. For a very small cost per device, protection against backsiphonage can be prevented.

Underground sprinkler systems are highly susceptible to contamination because the sprinkler heads are underground. Lawn fertilizers and weed killers can puddle around the heads. That is why it is required that all underground systems have some kind of backflow device installed.