



2015  
WCRW #1



**RESIDENTIAL**

**CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL SURVEY FORM**

STATE LAW REQUIRES CONSUMERS OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES TO SURVEY THEIR FACILITIES NOT LESS THAN ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS. COMPLETING & RETURNING THIS FORM FULFILLS THE REQUIREMENT! JUST LET US KNOW WHAT ITEMS YOU HAVE BELOW.

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY AND MAIL IT WITH YOUR NEXT MONTHLY REMITTANCE TO: 8901 S. 154<sup>TH</sup> STREET OMAHA, NE 68138 OR EMAIL TO: znelson@pawneernd.org**

(PLEASE PRINT)

ACCOUNT # \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**THE FAILURE TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM VIOLATES STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT REGULATION TITLE 179 AND MAY WARRANT A PLUMBING INSPECTION BY THE WATER DEPARTMENT.**

PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE ANSWERS	YES	NO	???
1. Underground lawn irrigation system? If yes, is it protected by a testable backflow preventer?			
2. Swimming pool or hot tub? If yes, is it protected by a testable backflow preventer?			
3. Private well or other source of water?			
4. Boiler heat or water to air heat pump? If yes, is it protected by a testable backflow preventer?			
5. Garden hoses connected to possible contaminants? If yes, is it protected by a hose bibb vacuum breaker?			
6. Water softener? If yes, is it protected by an air gap?			
7. Photo, chemical, medical, (includes farm chemical preparation) If yes, is it protected by a testable backflow preventer or air gap?			
8. Are there any pumps hooked to your plumbing? If yes, check all that apply: Pressure booster ____, boiler circulator ____, other _____			

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

The backside of this form contains information about the importance of backflow prevention.  
Thank you for your help!

## Causes and Effects of Backflow

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Backflow can threaten both public and private water supplies. Backflow is caused by "cross-connections," connections between a safe drinking water supply and possible sources of contamination. All homes have potential cross-connections – water pipes and plumbing fixtures that may allow contamination to enter drinking water. They can be serious health hazards.

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### What is Backflow?

Backflow results primarily from a pressure differential. This pressure differential will either cause back pressure or back siphonage. An example of back siphonage is when the water pressure coming into your home suddenly drops, a siphon is created and contaminated water can be drawn back into previously clean water supplies (for example, an underground water main or a private well).

### Consequences of Backflow Through Back Siphonage

Backflow can have many undesirable effects. For example:

- A toilet flush valve without an anti-siphon device can permit toilet odors, vapors and worse to get into household plumbing and the water you drink.
- If a garden hose is used to clean out sewer lines or rain gutter downspouts, a drop in pressure can cause contamination from those sources to be drawn back into your water supply.
- Similarly, water being used to fill a swimming pool can be drawn back into the water supply during pressure drops, bringing contamination with it.
- If an insecticide attachment is used on a garden hose, backflow can cause potentially lethal contamination of water supplies.

### Sources of Backflow

Backflow can occur wherever there are potential cross-connections in a water system. Potential cross-connections include:

- Kitchen: dishwashers, garbage disposals
- Bathroom: toilets, hand-held shower heads, steam bath generators, bath whirlpool devices
- Faucets: hose bibbs, sill cocks, or any faucet where a hose can be attached
- Outdoors: swimming and wading pools, fish ponds, fountains, lawn irrigation systems

Hoses are a special problem and wherever they are attached to a threaded faucet a potential backflow hazard exists.

### Preventing Backflow

To protect your water supply, backflow preventers should be installed anywhere a potential cross-connection exists. The costs of backflow prevention may seem prohibitive, but they are outweighed by the benefits. Consider: small amounts of some carcinogenic lawn chemicals and other contaminants could occasionally backflow for years and go unnoticed until serious health effects appear for those drinking the water. Backflow preventers can help safeguard the health of you and your family.

### Type of Backflow Preventers

There are several different types of backflow preventers. Two of the most common types are hose bibb vacuum breakers and pressure type vacuum breakers.

#### *Hose Bibb Vacuum Breakers*

A hose bibb vacuum breaker is an inexpensive device installed on a faucet or sill cock to protect against backflow from a garden hose or other type of hose.

#### *Pressure Type Vacuum Breakers*

Pressure vacuum breakers are used primarily on the pipes supplying water to underground lawn sprinkler systems. They prevent the backflowing of soil bacteria, animal wastes, fertilizers, and pesticides.