

What is a **cross connection**? A connection between your drinking water and another source of water that combines the two when a backflow condition occurs. When this occurs, your drinking water can become contaminated.

OK. So? What is **backflow**? Backflow is when the water in your pipes (the pipes after the water meter) goes backward (the opposite direction from its normal flow). There are two situations that can cause the water to go backward (backflow):

- Backpressure—the pressure in your pipes is greater than the pressure coming in.
- Backsiphonage—a negative pressure in one of the pipes.

To protect the water system, a backflow prevention assembly (device that prevents the backflow of water) are required for all business and residential customers that present a potential hazard to the Town's water system.



**PROTECTING YOUR  
WATER AGAINST  
CONTAMINATION**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CALL 919-553-1530**

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## CROSS CONNECTION/ BACKFLOW PROGRAM

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Town of Clayton  
Public Works Department  
P.O. Box 879  
653 NC Hwy 42 West  
Clayton, NC 27528  
919-553-1530  
919-553-1541 (fax)



# AN INTRODUCTION TO CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL

Daily, the Town of Clayton supplies an average of 2 million gallons of water to its citizens. Water that exceeds the requirements for the EPA. Before the water is pumped to your home or business, it has gone through careful treatment and numerous tests to ensure its quality.

Congress established the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) in 1974 to protect human health from contaminants in drinking water and to prevent contamination of existing groundwater supplies. This act and its amendments (1986 and 1996) require many actions to protect drinking water and its source. One of these actions is the installation and maintenance of an approved backflow prevention assembly at the water service connection whenever a potential hazard is determined to exist in the customers system. Without proper protection devices, cross connection can occur.

## What is considered a potential hazard?

**ANY** possibility of pollutants, contaminants and system or plumbing hazards. For example: fire protection systems, irrigation systems, gasoline stations, restaurants, hospitals and manufacturers.

To keep your drinking water safe, we diligently check the plans of each new business for compliance with cross connection/backflow requirements. We require test on all backflow prevention assemblies annually.

We take pride in the water we provide and will continue to protect it and our citizens.

**WHAT IS THE BIG DEAL?** Well, the big deal is that backflows due to cross connection can cause sickness and death. Even in your own home, you can unwittingly create a cross connection:

- Putting a garden hose in a swimming pool
- Putting the garden hose in a pet's water bucket to fill it; or fish tank
- Connecting your garden hose to a plant fertilizer or bug spray



We, the Town of Clayton, protect the water entering your system. However, it is your responsibility to protect the water on your property or in your home. As a owner, the town requires that you have your backflow device tested annually.

## Backflow Test Results

Backflows are required to be tested **annually** or **after any repairs** are made to the device. If an owner fails to have a device tested, water interruption can be considered.

The best time to test Irrigation Backflows is **annually** before the watering season begins.

The town can provide a list of approved certified cross connection control operators to test your system.

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