

Welcome to water service with the Water and Wastewater Authority of Wilson County. This brochure is intended to make you aware of a very important subject--- **Cross Connections.**



A Cross Connection is any safe water supply that is “crossed” (or connected) with an unsafe source. Technically it is defined as any link, actual or potential, which could permit backflow of an unsafe substance or water of questionable quality into the public water supply. If this type of connection exists, there is a possibility of a backflow situation. Backflow is simply the undesirable reversal of flow from the intended direction.

In many cases, the water quality changes after it goes through the meter, depending on the plumbing system, water usage, and so forth of the customer. The Water Authority doesn’t want this water back, and other customers don’t want used water! Consider that the end of your faucet is where the public water system stops and the sink or tub below is where the sewer system begins. They must remain separated, and not linked together with any hose or channel.

Backflow can be very dangerous to your family or community, even deadly, particularly when the customer’s plumbing is directly tied into chemical vats, hazardous business applications, boiler systems, irrigation systems, watering troughs, or private well water, just to name a few.

Cross Connection hazards endanger both commercial and residential customers.

Let’s imagine that you are outside washing the family dog and you connect a garden hose to the spicket and lay the hose down in a washtub full of doggy soap and water. If simultaneously, the Water Authority opens a fire hydrant on your street, the loss of



pressure could result in backsiphonage, and without backflow protection, all those doggy soapsuds were just siphoned back into the plumbing of your house, back through the meter, and into your neighbor’s house!

This is the danger of cross connections and backflow.

Because of these hazards, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation mandates that all public water systems implement an aggressive Cross Connection Control Program.

For our residential customers, all meters are installed with a dual check valve to prevent backflow, however, some concerns are:

- Proper separation between the public water supply and private well or spring water. They must not be connected at all in your plumbing system.
- Hose bib vacuum breakers on all outside faucets.
- Air gaps or backflow preventers on swimming pools, fountains, watering troughs, etc.

For our commercial customers, schools, churches, medical buildings, mortuaries, dairy farms, and a host of other type of facilities, backflow prevention devices will be required.

An approved, testable *reduced pressure backflow preventer* is a device consisting of 2 check valves with a mechanically operating discharge device between them. Other than an air gap (impossible in many applications), this is the most effective method of preventing backflow.

Good cross connection control requires cooperation between the Water and Wastewater Authority of Wilson County, you the customer, and local plumbers.

Your facilities will be inspected, appropriate backflow devices installed if necessary, and tested annually.



Should you have any questions concerning cross connection control, it’s hazards and solutions; please contact:

Chris Leauber, Executive Director

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*Let’s work together for safe drinking water!*

*The goal of the  
Water and Wastewater  
Authority  
Of Wilson County is to  
Provide our customers  
With safe, potable  
Drinking water.*

Important  
Information  
Inside

Water and Wastewater Authority  
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Chris Leauber  
Executive Director

What you  
don't know,  
  
CAN  
  
hurt you!

An Important Message  
From your Friends at  
The Water and Wastewater  
Authority of Wilson County