

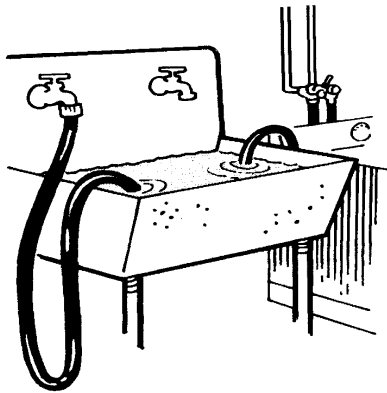
We take pride in the water we provide and will continue to protect it, and our citizens. You can do your part by:

- Do not put a hose in a pet's water bucket or in a mop bucket.
- Do not connect your hose to a plant fertilizer or bug spray unit.

**A cross connection horror story!**

In Kansas, a man died from drinking out of his garden hose. He had been spraying the yard with insecticide to get rid of the bugs and had connected his garden hose to the spraying device. Unknown to him, during the spraying, the main water pressure had dropped causing the poisoned water to backflow into the hose. It was enough to kill him when he took a drink from the hose. He had contaminated his own water.

*Over 1/2 of the nations cross-connections are from unprotected garden hoses!*



Village of Lombard  
Dept. of Public Works  
255 East Wilson Avenue  
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(630) 620-5740



***Aqua Backflow***  
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**Important information from the  
Village of Lombard regarding the  
safety of your water supply!**

**Water Customer  
Lombard, IL 60148**

Village of Lombard  
255 E. Wilson Ave.  
Lombard, IL 60148

**This pamphlet is being provided to you to explain Cross Connection Control and Backflow Prevention. The Village of Lombard has contracted with Aqua Backflow of Elgin, IL to manage the Village's Cross Connection Program. Aqua Backflow will be contacting you to schedule a site inspection and review the testing documentation for your existing backflow prevention devices. Your cooperation is appreciated as we make these State and EPA mandated inspections to keep your drinking water safe.**

## **INTRODUCTION TO CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL**

Every day, the Village of Lombard proudly supplies over 4 million gallons of fresh water to its citizens; water that exceeds the requirements of the EPA. Before the water is pumped to your home or business, it has gone through careful treatment and numerous tests to insure its quality.

Congress established the Safe Drinking Water Act (SWDA) 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 & 1996) require many actions to protect drinking water and its sources. One of the actions is the ***installation and maintenance of an approved backflow prevention assembly at the water service connection where a potential hazard is determined to exist in***

*the customer's system.* Without proper protection devices, cross connections can occur, causing potentially dangerous situations.

### **What is considered a potential hazard?**

ANY possibility of pollutants or contaminants entering a water system is considered a potential hazard. For example: fire protection systems, lawn irrigation systems, car washes, restaurants, laboratories, manufacturers, just to name a few.

### **What is a Cross Connection?**

A cross connection is any physical connection between two separate piping systems, one of which contains drinking water and the other non-potable water which can backflow into the drinking water. When this occurs, your drinking water can become contaminated.

**What is backflow?** Backflow is when the water in your building's pipes flows backward (the opposite direction from its normal flow). There are two situations that can cause water to flow backward:

- **Backpressure** – When the pressure in your pipes is greater than the pressure coming into the building from the Village's watermain, allowing the water to be pushed back into the watermain.
- **Backsiphonage** - Negative pressure in the Village's watermain that siphons water out of the building's pipes and into the distribution system. This can be caused by a watermain break or using several fire hydrants at the same time.

To protect the water system, two kinds of ***backflow prevention assemblies*** (devices that prevent the backflow of water) are required for all businesses and residences that present a potential hazard to the Village's water system:

- **External** ("site" or "containment") - to protect the Village's water from cross connections within the customer's premises.
- **Internal** (isolation) - to protect the customer from potentially hazardous cross connections in his own system.

### **What is the Village doing to keep your water safe?**

Current State of Illinois Plumbing Code and Illinois EPA regulations require a biannual survey to determine if cross connections exist, identify locations requiring backflow prevention devices and verify existing backflow prevention devices are tested annually and operating properly.

The Village diligently checks the plans (blueprints) of each new business and residence for compliance with cross connection and backflow requirements.

Backflow prevention devices in Village owned facilities are tested annually by a licensed cross connection control inspector.

If you have any questions, please contact Angela Podesta, Utilities Superintendent, Village of Lombard at (630) 620-5740 or Aqua Backflow at (847) 742-2296 .