

Garden hoses are cross-connections. How you as a homeowner can help protect our water supply.

The garden hose is the most common cross connection and potential hazard to our drinking water.

Ways a garden hose can cause contamination:

- ◆ *forcing it into a clogged gutter, downspout, or sewer pipe to flush out the clog*
- ◆ *connecting it directly to a hose-end sprayer to apply pesticide or fertilizer to your yard*
- ◆ *connecting it to a soap-and-brush attachment to wash your car, boat, or siding*
- ◆ *letting the end of the hose lie in a puddle or pool of water.*

If backflow happens, your household's water lines could be contaminated and could spread to the public drinking water system.

Ways to prevent garden hose cross-connection:

- ◆ *Never submerge the end of your garden hose or connect it to a non-potable substance.*
- ◆ *Install a hose bibb vacuum breaker on each of your outside faucets. These inexpensive devices are designed to allow water to flow in only one direction. You can find them at most home supply stores and through plumbing suppliers. Before you use a hose-end sprayer, you should first install a hose bibb vacuum breaker at the faucet.*

Additional Resources:

City of Longview

www.LongviewTexas.gov/BackFlow

BSI Online

www.bsionlinetracking.com

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

www.tceq.texas.gov/

Environmental Protection Agency

www.epa.org

American Water Works Association

www.awwa.org

American Backflow Prevention Association

www.abpa.org

City of Longview Water Purification Division:
903-237-2780

Backflow Prevention Hotline:
903-237-2787

Water Emergency:
903-236-3030

**Cross-Connection
Control & Backflow
Prevention
Program**



What is Backflow?

Backflow is the undesirable reversal of the flow of water from its intended direction in any pipeline or plumbing system. Backflow is dangerous because it can allow drinking water in plumbing systems to become contaminated and unusable. This can happen when pressure is reduced in the distribution system due to an unforeseeable main line break fire fighting, or other distribution system situation.



The City of Longview's Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention Program's main goal is to provide clean and safe drinking water to all water customers. One of the ways we protect our water supply within the distribution system is to require all potentially hazardous connections to use, maintain and regularly test backflow prevention devices in their plumbing systems.

Backflow prevention devices are mechanical plumbing devices installed in a plumbing system to prevent water from flowing backward in the system. A properly installed, tested and maintained backflow preventer at the service entrance to a building or property can reliably prevent the backflow of water of an unknown quality from flowing back into the public water system.

Backflow Prevention Requirements

The City of Longview's Ordinance No. 3020 complies with the Federal and State regulations regarding cross-connection and backflow prevention. The following are requirements of the program:

- ◆ The customer agrees to abide by the rules and regulations regarding cross-connection control and backflow prevention outlined in the TCEQ's Customer Service Agreement in order to establish a connection with the City of Longview's potable water supply.
- ◆ The Building Inspector and/or a Customer Service Inspector for the City of Longview will determine if a structure/building or homestead has a potential health or non-health hazard onsite and will determine what type of backflow device(s) are required in accordance to adopted plumbing codes, ordinances and Federal and State regulatory agencies.
- ◆ The costs associated with the installation, maintenance and annual testing is the responsibility of the water customer.
- ◆ Annual testing should be performed by a licensed backflow prevention device tester. The tester should submit the test reports electronically to BSI Online at www.bsionlinetracking.com. BSI Online is a backflow records management company that is contracted by the City of Longview and will issue annual reminder letters to customers. BSI has representatives who can answer questions regarding the City of

Longview's Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention Program.

Customer Services Inspections

are surveys of a plumbing system by a licensed inspector within a customer's premises to detect any cross-connections that could cause public water supply contamination. If a cross-connection is suspected, ownership of the property changes or construction occurs, a customer service inspection should be performed to ensure continued protection of the water supply.

Irrigation Systems

that are connected directly to the City of Longview's water supply are required to have a backflow prevention device that requires annual testing. This is for commercial and residential customers.



Questions?

Regarding plumbing codes and/or if your property requires a new backflow prevention device, please contact the Building Inspections Department at 903-237-1074.

Regarding test reporting procedures or to request a list of approved testers, please contact BSI Online at (800) 414-4990.

Any other questions regarding the Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention Program, please contact the Water Purification Division's Backflow Prevention Hotline at 903-237-2787.