

TOWN OF TAZEWELL  
CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL

A "cross connection" is an unprotected actual or potential piping or plumbing arrangement between a customer's residential piping system and the public water system through which a substance other than potable water could flow back into the public system. If water pressure in the street becomes lower than normal, water can flow backwards. Water may travel from your piping system or from a hose connected to your piping system backward to your outlets or into the piping in your street.

The most common problems in a home are commode flush tank valves submerged in the tank, the connection of hoses or other devices to hose bibs, and the use of frost-proof yard hydrants. Most homes can be adequately protected by applying an approved vacuum breaker on all hose bibs and through the installation of an anti-siphon flush valve in the commode tank.

Hoses left submerged in swimming pools, animal watering troughs, or having chemical sprayers attached to them are conditions that can be extremely hazardous. Other potential hazards can apply if hoses are left lying on the ground where contaminants such as fertilizer, garden chemicals, or other liquids can be siphoned into the hose and into the home.

Frost-proof yard hydrants drain into the ground when turned off. The drain hole underground could allow contamination to be siphoned into the home. An approved backflow device installed on the line feeding the hydrants will provide adequate protection but is expensive. An alternative is to just plug the drain hole, install a hose bib vacuum breaker, and winterize or eliminate the hydrant.

All inside and outside hose bibs except those for washing machines will require vacuum breakers.

***WARNING***, vacuum breakers may prevent the hose bib from draining. This could allow the hose bib to freeze. Please read the manufactures recommendation for winterizing or purchase the frost-proof type wall hydrants.

Under Public Law 99-339, the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1986, the waterworks owner has the primary responsibility for preventing substances from an unknown, questionable, or nonpotable source from entering the public water supply.

The consumer, home owner or resident, has the primary responsibility of preventing pollutants or contaminants from entering the residential piping system and back flowing into the public water supply system.

Our first step in implementing the Cross Connection Control Program is to survey our customers. Your cooperation is needed in order to reduce the chance of contaminating our water system. If you were mailed a survey form, please complete and return it before June 22, 2012. If you believe you have items that may apply to your premises and did not receive a survey form, please notify the town in writing by June 22, 2012.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.