

What is a Cross Connection?

A cross-connection is an actual or potential connection between the safe drinking water (potable) supply and a source of contamination or pollution.

BACKSIPHONAGE

May occur due to a loss of pressure in the municipal water system during a fire fighting emergency, a water main break or system repair. This creates a siphon in your plumbing system which can draw water out of a sink or bucket and back into your water or the public water system.

- State plumbing codes require approved backflow prevention methods to be installed at every point of potable water connection and use. Cross-Connections must be properly protected or eliminated.

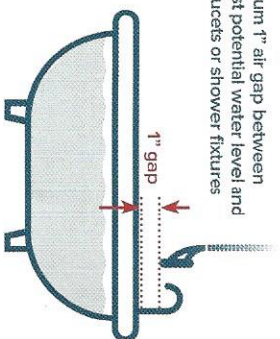
HOW DOES CONTAMINATION OCCUR?

When you turn on your faucet, you expect the water to be as safe as when it left the treatment plant. However, certain hydraulic conditions left unprotected within your plumbing system may allow hazardous substances to contaminate your own drinking water or even the public water supply.

Water normally flows in one direction. However, under certain conditions, water can actually flow backwards; this is known as Backflow. There are two situations that can cause water to flow backward: backsiphonage and backpressure.



Minimum 1" air gap between highest potential water level and any faucets or shower fixtures



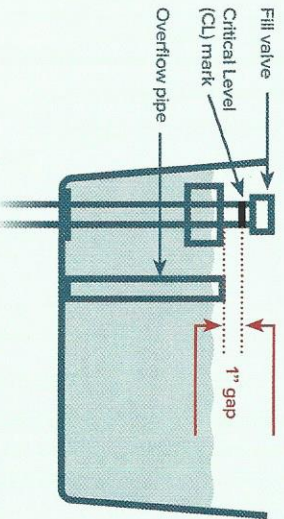
BATHTUB & SHOWER FIXTURES

- A hand-held shower fixture is compliant if:
 - When shower head is hanging freely, it is at least 1" above top of the flood level rim of the bathtub
 - Complies with ASSE#1014
 - Has the ASME code A112.18.1 stamped on the handle

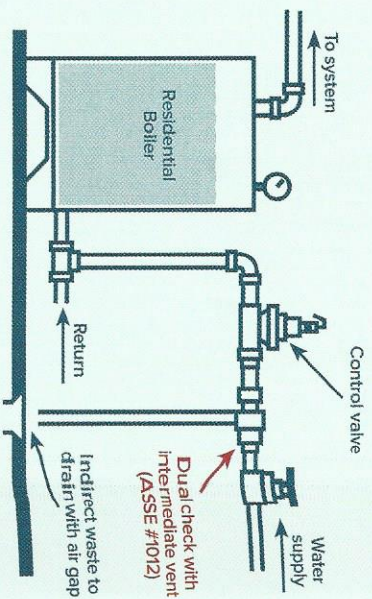
TOILET TANKS

There are many unapproved toilet tank fill valve products sold at common retailers which do not meet the state plumbing code requirements for backflow prevention.

- Look for the ASSE #1002 Standard symbol on the device and packaging.
- Replace any unapproved devices with an ASSE #1002 approved anti-siphon fill valve device. Average cost is typically \$12 to \$22 at home improvement stores.
- Verify overflow tube is one inch below critical level (CL) marking on the fill valve.



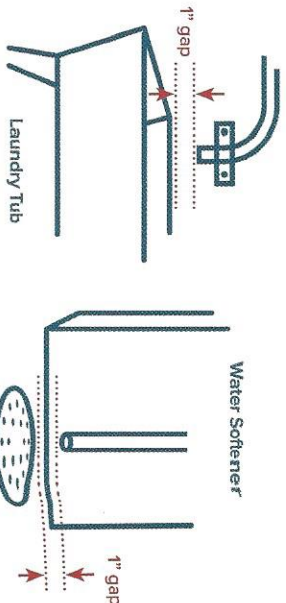
BOILERS



Boilers with chemical additives require an ASSE #1013 - Reduced Pressure Principle Backflow Prevention Assembly.

ELSEWHERE IN THE HOME

Always maintain an air gap of at least 1 inch between the end of drain hoses and the highest potential water level.



HOME EXTERIOR

Verify all outside faucets are protected with a hose bibb vacuum breaker of the ASSE-certified types shown below.

ASSE #1011

ASSE #1011 Frost-Free

ASSE #1019

