

## PWC's Residential Lawn Irrigation Program

Residential customers with separate lawn irrigation meters are covered by this special program, whereby a PWC contractor routinely tests the backflow prevention assembly on your tap. Customers are charged a minimal fee for this service, which can result in significant savings.

For more information on preventing backflow and cross connection, visit our website. Or, call the PWC Environmental System Protection Office at 223-4704.



### Customer Service

1-877-Our PWC1 • 24-Hour Emergency

Visit Us Online [www.faypwc.com](http://www.faypwc.com)

## Keep Your Drinking Water Safe



What you can  
do to prevent  
contaminated water

PWC works hard to provide you with water that's even cleaner than the standards required by the EPA. Providing a safe and ample water supply requires high tech facilities and complex procedures. It's also important to make our customers aware of potential problems and precautions they should take. Here's what you should know to protect the water you drink:

**Cross Connection + Backflow = Contaminated Water**

### **Cross Connection is:**

This occurs when water from the public system comes in physical contact with a potential source of contamination. For example: putting a water hose directly into swimming pool water that is treated with chemicals – or using a fertilizer spray attachment on your hose without a backflow prevention device.

### **Backflow is:**

Water systems rely on pressure to keep water flowing through pipes in the proper direction. However, when something causes a drop in water pressure, it can cause water to flow in reverse direction. While backflow may not be considered an everyday occurrence, the

potential is always there. Pressure drops that cause backflow can happen for a variety of reasons such as unusually high water use or a break in a main water line. Even firefighters using a hydrant can cause backflow to occur.

If water backflows into your home through a hose with water that has been contaminated through a cross connection, there's a chance someone could unknowingly drink the harmful water.

### **Do Not:**

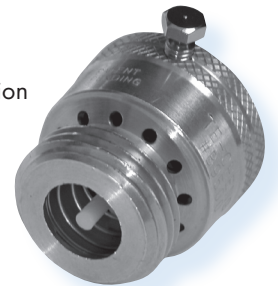
- Submerge hoses in pools, buckets, tubs, sinks, aquariums, old wells, etc.
- Let the end of your hose touch any area that has contaminants or harmful substances. Remember, there are many things that can contaminate your drinking water including soaps and other cleansers, chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides, food bacteria and more.



- Use spray attachments on your hose without a backflow protection device. (Some sprayers now have a protection device built in; however, we recommend that you also install backflow devices on spigots for general protection.)

### **Do:**

- Install backflow prevention devices on hose spigots around your home.



Available in hardware and home improvement stores, these backflow devices – known as a “hose bib vacuum breaker” – are inexpensive and easy to install.

### **Other Protection For Your Drinking Water**

Certain fixtures/systems in your home or on your property are installed and designed to protect you from contaminated water sources. Generally, this is done by the builder, contractor or installer.

- Toilets should have “anti-siphon” ballcock assemblies.
- Taps on lawn irrigation (automatic sprinkler) systems must have a testable backflow prevention assembly. State and local regulations require that these assemblies be installed and tested.