

# Is Your Hose a Health Hazard?



## For More Information

If you want to know more about back-flow prevention, please call:

The City of Everett's  
Cross Connection Specialist  
425-257-8800

### ***Other brochures available from the City of Everett:***

- Is Your Water Safe?
- Where Does Your Water Come From?
- Concerned About Lead?
- Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

*Please call the City of Everett Public  
Works Department for copies of any of  
these brochures at 425-257-8889.*

*Your garden hose,  
kitchen sink sprayer,  
and sprinkler system  
are just a few of the ways  
chemicals or bacteria  
could get into your  
home's drinking water.  
This brochure explains  
what to do to protect  
yourself and your family  
from this potential  
health hazard.*



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# Your Garden Hose

## *The Potential Danger*

**I**t looks harmless enough, but your garden hose-and other hoses around your house-are potential health hazards to your family. Garden hoses, showerheads attached to hoses, and kitchen hose sprayers can be found in many homes. Left in the wrong place, they could hurt you and your family.

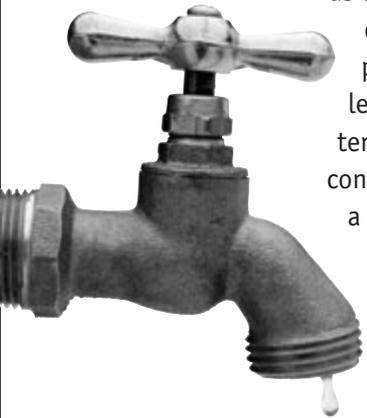
A hazard may be created when one of these hose ends comes in contact with a potentially harmful substance such

as chemicals, poisons, or bacteria. This can happen when the hose end is left submerged in bath water, dish water or any other contaminated water. Using a sprayer hose attachment outside to apply weed killer could also present a hazard.

A sudden drop in pressure inside the water line could cause these

contaminants to be sucked right back into your home's drinking water supply.

Pressure may also build up inside a hose left on with a shut-off nozzle attached. Especially if left in the hot sun, high pressure may force bad tasting water inside the hose into your home's plumbing.



# Cross Connections

## *The Other Potential Hazards In Your Plumbing System*

**Y**our outdoor hose faucet is actually a potential cross connection. A cross connection is a point in a plumbing system where the drinking water supply is connected or can be connected to a non-drinking water source. Other examples of potential cross connections are irrigation sprinkler systems, swimming pools, boiler systems, and fire sprinkler systems.

The water delivered to your home by the City's distribution system is perfectly safe to drink. But it can become contaminated through unprotected cross connections. There are two types of backflow which may occur at cross connections. The first type, called back-siphonage, is caused by a negative or reduced pressure in the water supply line. This could be the result of accidental construction damage to a water pipeline or firefighters battling a nearby fire. Such incidents are not uncommon.

Another type of backflow, called backpressure, may occur whenever the drinking water supply line is connected to another system operating at a higher pressure, a booster pump, a boiler system or other pressurized systems, such as high-rise building water systems.

# Backflow Prevention

## *What You Can Do*

**T**he dangers described in this brochure can occur where unprotected cross connections exist. Inexpensive and easy-to-install backflow prevention devices for all threaded faucets around your home are available at major hardware or plumbing supply stores. Buy and install hose faucet vacuum breakers. They are available for approximately \$5 to \$10. And always keep hose ends out of contaminated water sources.

Backflow prevention assemblies for landscape irrigation systems are more expensive. These systems require a double check valve assembly at a minimum. Contact your landscape contractor, plumber, local plumbing store, or the City of Everett Public Works Department for more details.

