

## What is a cross connection?

Any real or potential connection between the water supply and a source that can contaminate or pollute that water is considered a cross connection.

When the system experiences a loss in water pressure, such as when a fire hydrant is opened or a water main breaks, a backflow can occur that causes water in the pipes to flow in the opposite direction. That's when a contaminant or pollutant could travel into drinking water.

### Common cross connections include:

- Commercial properties, from carbonated beverage machines and ice-makers, fire sprinkler systems and x-ray machines.
- Residential properties, with lawn irrigation, fire sprinkler systems and even a common garden hose, when submerged in water.

## Why is a control program necessary?

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) requires that all water systems in the state of Illinois have an effective Cross Connection Control Program.

Glenview has established such a program with the goal of protecting both the integrity of Glenview's water system and its water customers. The Village has contracted with **Backflow Solutions Inc. (BSI)** to inspect the water supply and distribute educational materials to all water customers.

The first step in the program is to complete a comprehensive mail survey to determine where cross connections exist. A pre-addressed survey card is being mailed in intervals that must be completed and returned. It contains a check list of items to verify whether a backflow device is needed or has already been installed.

- **Survey letter**

## What is a backflow device?

A backflow device can be installed inline to prevent any "bad" water from mixing with "good" water, should a backflow occur. The assemblies can be simple, such as a hose bibb vacuum breaker on a garden hose, or more complex, like a reduced pressure assembly or double check assembly.

Because it is a mechanical device, the assembly needs routine maintenance and are subject to parts wearing down or breaking. The IEPA mandates the devices be tested annually.

## Who can install a backflow device?

Installation, testing and certification of a backflow assembly may only be completed by a licensed, certified backflow prevention assembly tester.