

protect your drinking water

You may unknowingly be contaminating your home's drinking water by attaching a spray bottle of pesticide to a hose, or leaving the end of a hose in a child's wading pool, hot tub or ornamental pool.

A hose creates the most common cross connection in the home.



Calgary's drinking water supply is safe and clean. We all have to do our part to ensure it stays that way.

More information on protecting your home or business from water contamination is available at calgary.ca/waterservices or call 3-1-1

CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

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HOME SAFETY: HOSES

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Never place the end of your hose in a potentially harmful substance that can be sucked back into your drinking water.



We take our clean water for granted. But contaminants can get into our water supply through a cross connection – a link between your household water supply and a source of contaminants.

A good example is spraying pesticide with a garden hose. If the water pressure drops or is interrupted the pesticide can be sucked into your home's water supply.

This poses a serious health threat. A few simple precautions will protect your family and your neighbours.

There are many places around the home where a hose is used. Some examples are fish tank fills, laundry hoses, flexible shower heads and sink rinsers.

The danger comes when the end of a hose is connected to or submerged in a potentially harmful substance and there is a drop in water pressure. The drop in pressure may occur if there is a watermain break or repair, or if there is a large amount of water withdrawal such as fire fighting or watermain flushing (cleaning). This drop in pressure causes a reversal of the normal flow of liquids in the piping system, thus allowing harmful substances to enter and pollute your home's water supply.

HOW DO I PROTECT MY DRINKING WATER FROM CONTAMINATION?

It's as easy as one ... two ... three.

- 1 Never place the end of a hose in a potentially harmful substance that can be sucked back into the drinking water.
- 2 Do not place the end of a hose any closer than 25mm (one inch) to a source of contamination.
- 3 Attach a Hose Connection Vacuum Breaker (HCVB) on your tap prior to attaching the hose (see diagram below).



Remember to drain the outside HCVB before winter arrives or it will freeze and break.

HCVBs are available at local building materials and plumbing suppliers.

AS A HOMEOWNER, WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES TO PREVENT WATER CONTAMINATION?

Homeowners must ensure that no uncontrolled cross connections exist on their property in order to be in compliance with The City of Calgary Water Utility Bylaw and the National Plumbing Code.

WHAT ARE THE CITY'S RESPONSIBILITIES TO PREVENT WATER CONTAMINATION?

The City of Calgary meets its responsibilities by providing excellent drinking water as specified by Alberta Environment. In fact, Calgary's drinking water exceeds provincial and national standards. To help protect the drinking water from contamination, The City administers a Cross Connection Control Program.

Contaminants may also enter your drinking water through in-ground irrigation systems, water conditioners and heating boilers. Check the Calgary Yellow Pages for a listing of contractors and plumbers for further information.

