

## **2014 Annual Water System Cross-Connection Educational Statement Boylston Water District**

The Boylston Water District maintains a Cross Connection Control Program to protect our customers, and we publish this statement annually to educate our customers about the program. A cross-connection is any actual or potential connection between the drinking water lines and potential sources of pollution or contamination, such as a piping arrangement or equipment that allows the drinking water to come in contact with non-potable liquids, solids or gases hazardous to humans in the event of a backflow event. Backflow is the undesired reverse of the water flow in the drinking water distribution lines. This backward flow of the water can occur when the pressure created by equipment, such as a boiler or air-conditioning system, is higher than the water pressure inside the water distribution line (back pressure). It can also occur when the pressure in the distribution line drops due to routine occurrences such as water main breaks or heavy water demand, causing the water to flow backward inside the water distribution system (back-siphonage).

Backflow is a problem that many water consumers are unaware of. It's a problem that each and every water customer has a responsibility to help prevent. Please visit the Boylston Water District office or visit our website at [www.boylstonwaterdistrict.org](http://www.boylstonwaterdistrict.org) to learn more about cross connections. To learn about other responsibilities of your water system visit the MassDEP website at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/ccdefreg.pdf> or call the Boylston Water District at (508) 869-3400.

**What can I do to help prevent a cross-connection?** Without the proper protection something as simple as a garden hose has the potential to contaminate or pollute the drinking water lines in your house. In fact over half of the country's cross-connection incidents involve unprotected garden hoses. There are very simple steps that you as a drinking water user can take to prevent such hazards, they are:

- Never submerge a hose in soapy water buckets, pet watering containers, pool, tubs, sinks, drains or chemicals.
- Never attached a hose to a garden sprayer without the proper backflow preventer.
- Buy and install a hose bib vacuum breaker on any threaded water fixture. Installation of a hose bibb vacuum breaker is as easy as attaching a garden hose to a spigot. These devices cost approximately \$6.00 and are available at most hardware stores and home-improvement centers.
- Buy appliances and equipment with a backflow preventer.
- Buy and install backflow prevention devices or assemblies for all high and moderate hazard connections such as connections to fire protection systems, boilers or process water lines.

If you are the owner or manager of a property that is being used as a commercial, industrial or institutional facility you must have your property's plumbing system surveyed for cross-connection by your water purveyor. If your property has not been surveyed for cross-connections, contact the water district to schedule a survey. The Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations, 310 CMR 22.00 requires all public water systems to have an approved and fully implemented Cross-connection Control Program (CCCP). The Boylston Water District is working diligently to protect the public health of its drinking water customers from the hazards caused by unprotected cross-connections through the implementation of its cross-connection survey program, elimination or proper protection of identified cross-connections, the registration of all cross-connections protected by reduced pressure backflow preventers (RPBPs) or double check valve assemblies (DCVAs), and the implementation of a testing program for all RPBPs and DCVAs.