

## Four ways to prevent backflow

- 1 Use a licensed plumber for all property plumbing work.
- 2 Ensure that all potential cross-connection situations are protected with an appropriate and properly maintained backflow prevention device.
- 3 Seek advice from properly qualified persons on suitable backflow prevention devices and their maintenance.
- 4 Never immerse hoses into containers whilst filling, or use them in hazardous situations such as clearing blocked sewers.

For further information, contact a licensed plumber.

## Enquiries

Technical Enquiries (8am to 5pm weekdays)  
13 13 95

You can also visit our website  
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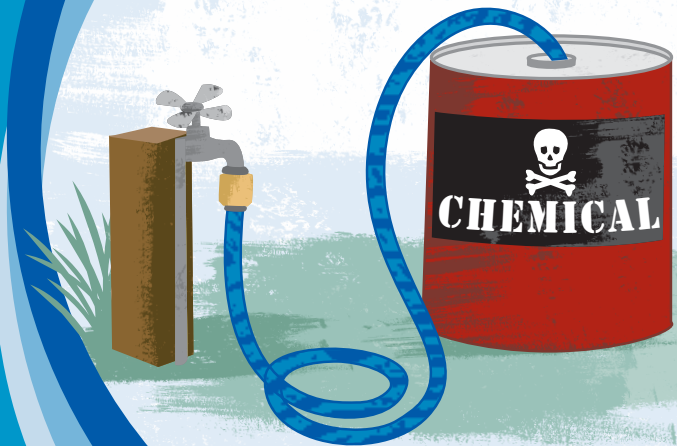
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## How to prevent backflow contamination of your water supply



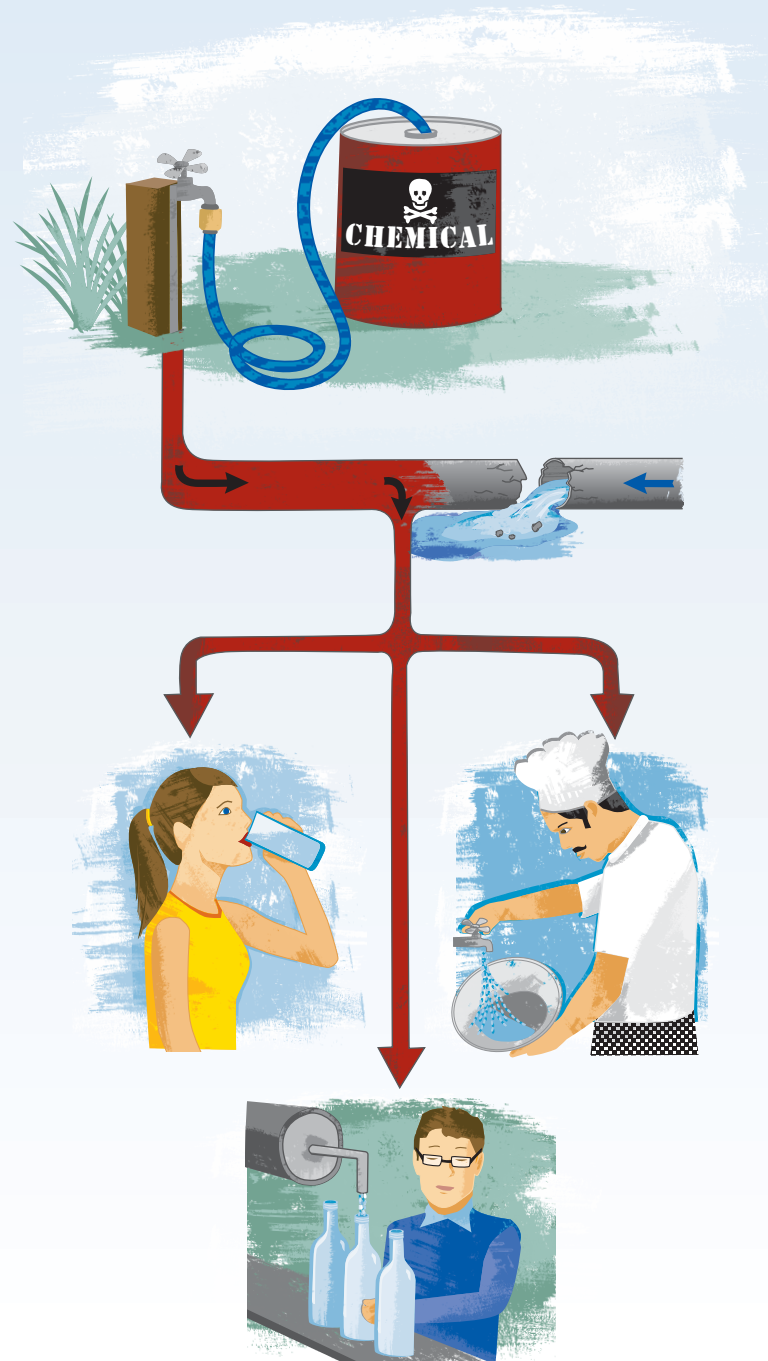
## What is backflow?

The water supply system is designed so that water flows out of your tap under pressure. However, under some conditions, low pressure due to a burst main or during fire fighting, for example, can cause the water to flow the other way (backsiphonage). Reverse flow is known as backflow.

Backflow can also occur if a pump outlet is inadvertently connected to the water supply (back pressure).

Any connection (cross-connection) between the water supply and a potential contaminant could cause the contaminant to flow into your drinking water supply (backflow contamination). A contaminant may be any toxic fluid containing bacteria, chemicals, pesticides or weedicides.

Even the simple action of using a running hose to clear a blocked drain could develop into a potentially hazardous situation. A sudden drop in pressure caused by a burst pipe inside or outside the property could siphon the contaminated water back into the property plumbing and your drinking water supply.



Backflow has the potential to cause injury, serious illness or in some extreme cases even death. Properly designed plumbing and safe practices will ensure protection from backflow.

## Protection from backflow contamination

Plumbing regulations and the Plumbing and Drainage Standards are designed to protect property plumbing from backflow contamination.

Internal plumbing incorporates air gaps for fixtures such as sinks, troughs, toilets and appliances such as dish and clothes washing machines.

External plumbing requires similar protection including a device known as a hose connection vacuum breaker fitted on all external taps.

In commercial and industrial facilities backflow prevention devices may also be required, not only internal to the property but also on the property's water service connection.