What you don't know *can* hurt you

A ***cross connection*** is an actual or possible pathway between our drinking water supply and a source of contamination or pollution. Cross connected plumbing may put your drinking water in contact with contaminated water. In our homes and businesses, water is often used to dilute, mix, cool and clean. This water may come in contact with dangerous chemicals and substances.

Water pressure normally pushes clean water through the distribution system so it's there whenever you turn on the tap. If the pressure drops for any reason (when a fire hydrant is opened, for example) the flow of water can be reversed and contaminated water can be siphoned back into your clean drinking water. ***Back-siphonage*** can cause contaminants to enter the potable water system through cross connections. Garden hoses are a frequent cause of dangerous cross connections...a hose submerged in a tub, bucket or pool, or attached to a sprayer to apply fertilizer or herbicide is a potential hazard.

The Cape Fear Public Utility Authority surveys water services to identify cross connection hazards and to determine if the required backflow prevention is installed and maintained. We are here to protect our water supply and help ensure you have safe, clean drinking water.

Help safeguard our water...

- ☑ Always maintain at least a one inch gap between the end of the hose and the pool, tank or whatever is being filled. Never submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tanks, tubs, aquariums or sinks.
- ☑ Never put a hose down a drain to flush out debris.
- ☑ Never connect another source of water (such as a private well or pond, creek) to your plumbing system.
- ☑ Never connect your garden hose to plant fertilizer or bug spray without a proper backflow device.
- ☑ Use proper backflow protection devices. Each spigot should have a hose-bibb vacuum breaker installed - this is a simple and inexpensive device that is available at almost any hardware store and screwed directly onto the spigot.
- ☑ All in-ground irrigation systems are required to be equipped with approved backflow devices.
- ☑ Be sure to have your backflow prevention assembly tested annually by a certified backflow tester.

Cape Fear
Public Utility Authority
Stewardship. Sustainability. Service.

Learn more about your water/sewer utilities:

www.cfpua.org