

Avoiding Dangerous **CROSS-CONNECTIONS**

A cross-connection is a point in plumbing systems where drinking water might come in contact with, and be contaminated by, hazardous materials. If you leave a hose in non-potable (not fit for drinking) water such as soapy water, pool water, etc., you could contaminate your drinking water. For instance, if the pressure in the water main feeding your property drops while your hose is submerged in nonpotable water, suction could be created, pulling the non-potable water back into your pipes, your drinking water supply, and Aqua's distribution main. The Safe Water Drinking Act requires that backflow protection devices be installed on all non-potable water services.

Here Are Some Plumbing Tips **TO HELP YOU AVOID BACKFLOW INCIDENTS**

- Install backflow prevention devices on threaded faucets in your home, especially outdoor hose faucets. Inexpensive backflow preventors, like hose connection vacuum breakers, can be found at many local plumbing supply stores.
- Keep the ends of hoses clear of any possible contaminants. Never leave a hose in a sink, bucket, drain, or tub. Also, keep water levels in such items below faucets and inlet valves.
- Don't use spray device attachments that contain chemicals, such as weed killers, on your hose without a backflow prevention device.

