

DID YOU KNOW?

NEVER:

- Submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, or sinks.

ALWAYS:

- Keep the end of the hose clear of possible contaminants.

DO NOT:

- Use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device. The chemicals used on your lawn are toxic and can be fatal if ingested.

DO:

- Buy and install inexpensive backflow prevention for all threaded faucets around your home. They are available at hardware stores and home-improvement centers.



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BACKFLOW PREVENTION



SAFEGUARD YOUR WATER

The City of Welland is encouraging homeowners to install backflow preventors on all hose connections.



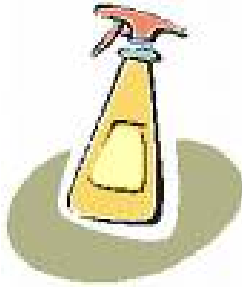
WHAT IS BACKFLOW PREVENTION

Backflow prevention is when water flows backward through the water supply system, also known as backsiphonage. When that water is accidentally mixed with hazardous chemicals or bacteria, it is dangerous.

The danger comes when the hose (any hose) is connected to a harmful substance. If the pressure in a water main drops while your hose is submerged in polluted or contaminated water, the water (and the contaminants contained within it) could be siphoned back into your pipes and your drinking water supply.

How does our water pressure drop?

A decrease in our water pressure is not uncommon. They can happen for a number of reasons: firefighters battling a nearby blaze or before a city crew performs repairs on an existing watermain that is broken or in need of a repair.



SUBSTANCES THAT COULD BE HARMFUL

There are many harmful substances that you should be wary of such as the chemicals that are used to fertilize your grass or the weed killer used on your lawn. Many household cleaners are hazardous if swallowed, as could the bacteria in the water from a wading pool or waterbed.



SCENARIO:

A woman is working in her yard and sprays commercial weed killer on her lawn by using a hose attachment. After she finishes, she disconnects the applicator. It is a hot day, so she takes a refreshing drink of water from the garden hose. A short time later, she is admitted to the emergency room with symptoms of poisoning.

WHAT HAPPENED?

At some time while she was spraying the weed killer, there was a drop in the water pressure which resulted in the poisonous weed killer being sucked back into the hose. Later, when she drank from the hose, the poison inside was released mixed with the water. She unknowingly poisoned herself.

