



Cross Connections in Potable Water Supplies

What is a cross connection?

A cross connection occurs when a pipe is illegally joined to the drinking water supply and can potentially result in the water being contaminated and unsuitable for use. An example of this may be a cross connection between a garden bore and a property's internal plumbing.

About Cross Connections

The Water Corporation minimises the risk of cross connections in a normally operating water supply through:

- Sealed and pressurised pipe systems to prevent non-potable water from entering the water supply.
- Backflow prevention devices fitted to high-risk newly developed or redeveloped properties. These devices prevent the reverse flow of water from a potentially contaminated source into the drinking water supply.
- Monitoring compliance with plumbing regulations, designed to prevent and minimise backflow contamination.

The First Signs of a Cross Connection

In the unlikely event of a cross connection the first signs will likely be a change to the taste, odour or appearance of the water supply. In most cases, this will not be immediately harmful. However, we recommend that you do not use the water and notify the Water Corporation on 13 13 75.

Water Corporation Investigation

At the first indication of a possible cross connection, as a matter of priority the Water Corporation will investigate by:

- Contacting people who live in the area to discuss their property's private connections and internal plumbing.
- Increasing monitoring to assess the presence, nature and extent of the cross connection.
- Where necessary, replacing the water meter with a new one containing a backflow prevention device, as a precaution.

Department of Health

The Department of Health is the regulator of drinking water quality in Western Australia. The Water Corporation has entered into a 'Memorandum of Understanding' with the Department of Health. As part of this agreement, we work closely with the Department of Health on issues, such as cross connections that have the potential to affect public health.

If you have any further enquiries

Visit www.watercorporation.com.au or contact Water Corporation's 24-hour Service Faults and Emergencies on **13 13 75**.

To the best of the knowledge of the Water Corporation, its directors, officers and staff, the information provided in this bulletin is correct, scientifically accurate and supported by current data. The statements made in this bulletin are based on Australian and international standards in effect as at the time of publication.