

## **Never Cross Connect Different Water Sources**

A cross connection is any actual or potential connection between Southwest Water Authority's (SWA) water lines and any other water sources. While property owners can keep their untreated irrigation waters, they must be kept separate from any of the Southwest Pipeline Project's (SWPP) lines to avoid possible water contaminations.

Cross connections are considered a very serious violation of SWA's Rules and Regulations because of the serious potential to contaminate the SWPP distribution system. Customers found to have cross connections during random system spot checks are subject to immediate termination of water service. For the health and safety of the community, inadequately protected cross connections are not allowed.

SWA's customer approved installers must certify there are no actual or potential cross connections with any other water sources. This form must be completed and verified by SWA before the water can be turned on. It's important to know only SWA's staff can turn on the water.

Any extension of the customer's distribution system, after the initial hook up, that creates a cross connection is prohibited by law. Reference is made to this regulation in the [Rules and Regulations of the Southwest Water Authority for Water Service from the Southwest Pipeline Project](#).

Installation of bottom type fill livestock waterers or other devices that may allow back siphoning into the SWPP water distribution system are considered cross connections and are strictly prohibited. To have a dual test type backflow preventor installed, please contact SWA for approval and installation.

## **Backflow Prevention Is Essential**

Water should only flow in one direction into a home or property. However, due to pressure changes in the pipes, water can actually flow backward and seep back into the main water piping system. A backflow preventer is a device that allows water to flow in only one direction into a home, never backwards. Thus, they play a vital role in protecting the public from harmful contaminants in the water supply. Without them, contaminated water can literally flow backwards into the main piping system or even your home's piping system. It is essential to inspect backflow preventers regularly to make sure they are doing their essential job. Call us if you have any questions or concerns.