

Backflow valves need to be installed on all outdoor faucets.

Water is supposed to flow one way—out of the faucet. A sudden drop in water system pressure can cause it to reverse direction and flow back into our water system. This *backflow* can cause *cross-connection* contamination. Cross-connections are a serious health risk because they can allow pollutants, chemicals, and bacteria to enter our water supply.

This sudden drop in water pressure may be caused by things like a water main break, high demand event, or when fire hydrants are opened. As the water flows backwards, anything connected to the hose could be pulled back into our water system/drinking water.

For example:

- A hose submerged in a bucket or hot tub
- Sprayers connected to fertilizers or pesticides
- Irrigation systems without proper backflow protection
- Garden hoses lying in dirt, mud, or pet areas

To prevent this a backflow valve (also called a vacuum breaker or hose bibb anti-siphon device) needs to be installed on any outdoor faucet. Its job is to prevent a reverse flow back into our water system. Water can flow out normally, but if the pressure drops, the valve closes and prevents the backflow.

These situations are more common than most people realize—and they can create a direct path for contaminants to enter our water.

Please:

- Check your outdoor faucets to see if a backflow valve is installed
- Add one if it's missing (it usually just screws on) and should be available at any hardware store
- Avoid leaving hoses submerged in pools, buckets, or chemicals

Protecting your home's water doesn't have to be complicated. A simple backflow valve can help prevent a serious problem before it starts. It's a quick fix that will help keep our water safe.

Aspen Mountain HOA board.



As of 5/2026 the black one is available at the Park City Home Depot for about \$5. It is located on aisle 15.