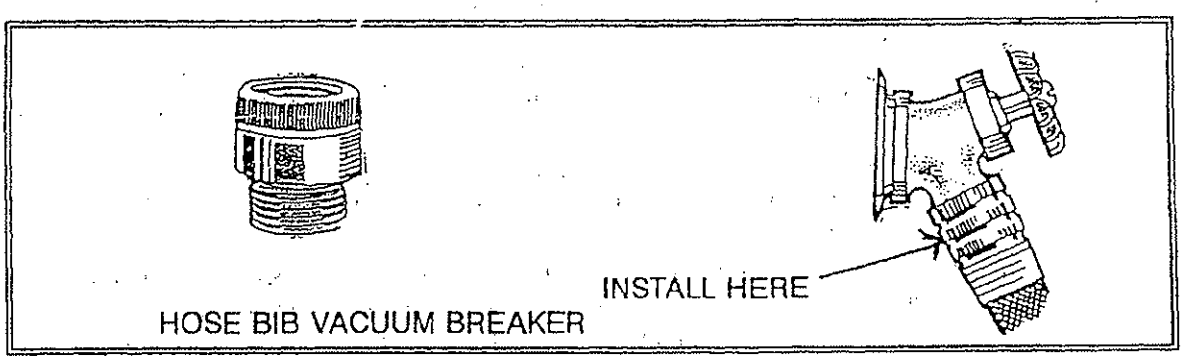
ARE YOU CONTAMINATING YOUR WATER SUPPLY?

The safety and quality of your drinking water maybe seriously effected by contaminants or pollutants that could backflow into your drinking water system through an unprotected cross connection. Backflow is the reverse flow of water or other substances back into your drinking water system and/or the public drinking water system. Backflow can occur if your plumbing system is physically connected (a cross connection) to any source of contamination or pollution that could affect the quality of your drinking water. Examples of common cross connections include landscape sprinkling systems, hand held shower attachments, utility sink hoses and unapproved toilet ball cock assemblies.

Many backflow incidents occur as a result of using a garden hose without proper backflow protection. A hose bib vacuum breaker provides adequate backflow protection for garden hoses. The International Plumbing Code requires that all new potable water outlets with hose attachments (threaded hose bib faucets) be equipped with hose bib vacuum breakers or atmospheric vacuum breakers. The use of a hose bib vacuum breaker on threaded hose faucets is recommended. Hose bib vacuum breakers are available at most plumbing supply outlets.



The International Plumbing Code requires that lawn sprinkling systems be equipped with an approved backflow prevention devise (antisiphon valve) or assembly. Atmospheric Vacuum Breakers (AVB) or Pressure Vacuum Breakers (PVB) can be used in many situations as long as specific installation requirements are met. These assemblies must be installed above the highest discharge point on the sprinkling system. An AVB cannot be used if shutoff valves are located downstream of the device. A Double Check Valve Assembly (DCA) or Reduced Pressure Principle Assembly (RP) must be used any time the sprinkling system piping is higher than the backflow assembly. A RP assembly is required on a system that utilizes any type of chemical injection process. All PVB, DCA, and RP assemblies must be tested by a certified backflow technician within ten days of initial use and annually thereafter. These assemblies must be reported to your local water supply agency. They are required by law to keep an inventory of all testable assemblies installed within their service area.