**WATER CROSS CONNECTION EDUCATION:**

The Division of Drinking Water requires us each year to do “Cross Connection” education. A water cross connection occurs when a potable (drinking) water supply is connected to a line which contains a contaminant.

**Backflow** is the reversal of water flow from its normal or intended direction of flow. This condition can cause water to reenter the water supply system and contaminating it. Backflow conditions are identified into two classifications: back-siphonage and backpressure.

**Back-siphonage** is characterized by a pressure drop in the water supply system. This drop in pressure can be due to high demands of water, main breaks, firefighting, or construction activities. The drop in pressure can cause water from the consumer’s system to siphon into the main water distribution system.

**Example:** A California homeowner was using an aspirator attached to a garden hose to spray a weed killer containing arsenic. While he was at the job, the water pressure reversed. He disconnected the hose and feeling thirsty he drank from the faucet at the house. Arsenic in the water line killed him.

A $10 house bibb vacuum breaker, which screws on the outside connection, would have prevented this. Hoses should never be submerged. It is always a good idea to keep about a two inch air gap between the end of a hose and anything you are filling. Never put the hose in a bucket and then fill the bucket with the hose submerged. If a water line breaks in the Association, you could suck anything in your bucket into your hose and possibly into your cabin water. Our backflow devices are supposed to keep contaminates from your cabin from entering our water system but they don’t prevent you from contaminating your own water in your cabin.

**Backpressure** is pressure in a consumer’s plumbing system which exceeds the supply pressure. This increase in pressure is often generated by pump, elevation of piping, heating application (thermal expansion), or steam or air pressure.

**Water Leaks**: Please report all water leaks you observe in our water lines to a Board member. Water leaks can become a source of contamination to our system.

**Water Meter Insulation:** Broken water lines at the meter box can be a cross connection problem and may damage the backflow device. Be sure and protect your water connection by insulating your meter box to prevent it from freezing.