

Is Your Garden Hose Safe?

Did you know that your garden hose could contaminate the water in your house? It takes just a few minutes and a few dollars to keep dirt & bacteria, herbicides & pesticides, soaps and other contaminants out of your water supply.

Always install a **hose bibb vacuum breaker** (HBVB) on the outside faucet. This inexpensive backflow prevention device (\$4-10) simply screws on to the faucet and is available from your local hardware store. It makes sure that no harmful materials are drawn back into the drinking water system through your hose. **Every outdoor faucet** should be protected with a HBVB to keep herbicides, pesticides, and even dirt out of the water system.

NEVER immerse a hose in a bucket, pond, pet water dish, or the fish tank. Bacteria and chemicals can be drawn into water meant for your family. If someone drinks or bathes in contaminated water, it can cause serious health problems or death.

WHY? ... Because a change in water pressure could pull water from your hose into your house and into the drinking water system. Water pressure changes occur on a regular basis - when hydrants are opened to fight fires and when water mains are being repaired.

For more information, see www.nashville.gov/water.

