

**2022 Consumer Confidence Report**  
**For**  
**East Brookfield Water Department**  
*East Brookfield, Massachusetts*  
 MASSDEP PWSID # 208-4000

This report is a snapshot of the drinking water quality that we provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to state and federal standards. We are committed to providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

**PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION**

**Address:** 424 East Main Street, East Brookfield MA 01515

**Contact Person:** Jacob Allard, Superintendent/ Primary Operator

**Telephone #:** 508-867-6317

**Email:** ebwater@eastbrookfieldma.us

**Water System Improvements**

**Our water system is routinely inspected by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). MassDEP inspects our system for its technical, financial, and managerial capacity to provide safe drinking water to you. To ensure that we provide the highest quality of water available, your water system is operated by a Massachusetts certified operator who oversees the routine operations of our system. As part of our ongoing commitment to you, last year we made the following improvements to our system:**

- *Development and implementation of a fire hydrant inspection, maintenance and flushing program that is conducted spring and fall to remove precipitated Iron & Manganese and to check operation of hydrants.*
- *Development and implementation of an annual distribution system valve inspection, maintenance and exercising program.*
- *Substantial completion of the 2021 water main replacement project DWSRF 6717 consisting of a new 12" water main from route nine on Harrington Street to approximately the Brookfield town line including installation of new valves, fire hydrants, and service line connections.*
- *Secured funding and began the design phase of the 2023 Water Main Replacement and Water Storage Tank Project DWSRF 6965 contracts #1 & #2. Contract #1 consists of the installation of approximately 10,000 linear feet of 8" to 12" ductile iron water main throughout town that includes installation of new valves, fire hydrants and service connections. Contract #2 includes construction of a 125ft, 300,000-gallon elevated glass fused to steel storage tank that will increase water pressure by approximately 20 PSI system wide and will alleviate low system pressures in areas of town.*
- *Residential Meter Replacement Program - As of December 31, 2022 approximately 90% of water meters have been replaced.*
- *To improve the quality of the water, we have begun working on the design and planning stage of a new water treatment/filtration plant to reduce the levels of iron and manganese in the water. This includes the drilling of a new standby well, preliminary site acquisition and design layout for the new treatment facility and the WS21B pilot study that was conducted to evaluate the iron and manganese removal in the future filtration system.*

**Opportunities for Public Participation**

If you would like to participate in discussions regarding your water quality, you may attend monthly Board of Selectmen meetings held every Monday at 7:00 PM at the East Brookfield Town Hall unless otherwise posted.

**YOUR DRINKING WATER SOURCE**

**Where Does My Drinking Water Come From?**

Your water is provided by the following sources listed below:

| Source Name  | MassDEP Source ID# | Source Type | Location of Source      |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| West St Well | 2084000-01G        | Groundwater | West St off Podunk Road |

### **Is My Water Treated?**

Sodium Hypochlorite (Disinfectant) is added to protect you from microbial contaminants.

Potassium Hydroxide (corrosion control) is added to elevate the PH making the water less corrosive.

Our water system makes every effort to provide you with safe and pure drinking water.

The water quality of our system is constantly monitored by us and MassDEP to determine the effectiveness of existing water treatment and to determine if any additional treatment is required.

### **How Are These Sources Protected?**

The East Brookfield Water Department owns, maintains and inspects zone 1.

Zone 1 has the radius of 400' surrounding the public water supply wellhead.

MassDEP has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the water supply source(s) serving this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies.

### **Where Can I See The SWAP Report?**

The complete SWAP report is available at the East Brookfield Water Dept at 424 East Main Street and online at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/the-source-water-assessment-protection-swap-program> . For more information, call the Water Dept. at 508-867-6317.

### **What is My System's Ranking?**

A susceptibility ranking of high was assigned to this system using the information collected during the assessment by MassDEP.

## **SUBSTANCES FOUND IN TAP WATER**

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals, and in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming. Pesticides and herbicides which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses. Organic chemical contaminants including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems. Radioactive contaminants which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and some infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on lowering the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. East Brookfield Water Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL)** – These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

### **Unregulated Contaminants**

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated monitoring is to assist EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

**Action Level (AL)** – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**90<sup>th</sup> Percentile** – Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

**Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG)** – This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

**PPM** – Parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L).

**PPB** – Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** – The highest level of a disinfectant (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** – The level of a drinking water disinfectant (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) below which there is no known expected risk to health.

MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**pCi/l** – picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

**ND** – Not Detected.

## WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

### **What Does This Data Represent?**

The water quality information presented in the table is from the most recent round of testing done in accordance with the regulations. All data shown was collected during the last calendar year unless otherwise noted in the table. Mass DEP has reduced the monitoring requirements for inorganic contaminants because the source is not at risk of contamination. The last sample collected for these contaminants was found to meet all applicable US EPA and Mass DEP standards.

### Residential Lead and Copper Sampling

|               | Date(s) Collected     | 90 <sup>TH</sup> percentile | Action Level | MCLG | # of sites sampled | # of sites above Action Level | Possible Source of Contamination   |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Lead (mg/L)   | 9/15/2022 – 9/20/2022 | .0068                       | .015         | 0    | 20                 | 0                             | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits                                   |
| Copper (mg/L) | 9/15/2022 – 9/20/2022 | .649                        | 1.3          | 1.3  | 20                 | 0                             | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives |

### School Lead and Copper Sampling

|               | Date(s) Collected | 90 <sup>TH</sup> percentile | Action Level | MCLG | # of sites sampled | # of sites above Action Level | Possible Source of Contamination   |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Lead (mg/L)   | 9/15/2022         | .0063                       | .015         | 0    | 2                  | 0                             | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits                                   |
| Copper (mg/L) | 9/15/2022         | .592                        | 1.3          | 1.3  | 2                  | 0                             | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives |

| Regulated Contaminant         | Date(s) Collected                   | Highest Result or Highest Running Average Detected | Range Detected | MCL or MRDL | MCLG or MRDLG | Violation (Y/N) | Possible Source(s) of Contamination   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|---|
| <b>Inorganic Contaminants</b> |                                     |  |                |             |               |                 |   |
| Nitrate (mg/L)                | 6/14/2022                           | .0549  | -              | 10          | 10            | N               | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits |
| PFAS 6* (PPT)                 | 1/21/2022<br>4/28/2022<br>7/28/2022 | ND   | -              | 20          | -             | N               | See below   |

\*PFAS 6 possible sources: discharges and emissions from industrial and manufacturing sources associated with the production or use of these PFAS, including production of moisture and oil resistant coatings on fabrics and other materials. Additional sources include the use and disposal of products containing these PFAS, such as fire-fighting foams.

| Regulated Contaminant                             | Date(s) Collected | Highest Result or Highest Running Average Detected | Range Detected | MCL or MRDL | MCLG or MRDLG | Violation (Y/N) | Possible Source(s) of Contamination      |
|---|-------------------|--|----------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|--|
| <b>Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products</b> |                   |  |                |             |               |                 |  |
| Chlorine (mg/L)                                   | Daily             | .08  | .06 - .38      | 4           | 4             | N               | Water additive used to control microbes  |
| Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)                       | 9/25/2019         | 4.3  | 2.3-4.3        | 80          | N/A           | N               | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection |

Unregulated contaminants are those for which there are no established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist regulatory agencies in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

| Unregulated Contaminants   | Date(s) Collected | Result or Range Detected | Average Detected | SMCL | ORSG | Possible Source  |
|--|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------|------|------|--|
| * US EPA has established a lifetime health advisory (HA) value of 300 ppb for manganese to protect against concerns of potential neurological effects, and a one-day and 10-day HA of 1000 ppb for acute exposure. |                   |                          |                  |      |      |  |
| Sodium (ppm)   | 5/10/2021         | 17.5                     | N/A              | N/A  | 20   | Discharge from the use and improper storage of sodium containing de-icing compounds or in water softening agents |

| Secondary Contaminants   | Date(s) Collected                                 | Result or Range Detected | Average Detected | SMCL    | ORSG                 | Possible Source   |
|--|---|--------------------------|------------------|---------|----------------------|---|
| Iron (mg/L)  | 1/03/2022<br>6/14/2022<br>9/13/2022<br>10/18/2022 | .742<br>to<br>.838       | .770             | .3      | N/A                  | Naturally occurring, corrosion of cast iron pipes             |
| Manganese* (mg/L)  | 1/03/2022<br>6/14/2022<br>9/13/2022<br>10/18/2022 | .460<br>to<br>.534       | .494             | .05     | Health Advisory of 3 | Natural sources as well as discharges from industrial uses    |
| * EPA has established a lifetime Health Advisory (HA) for manganese of 0.3 mg/L and an acute HA at 1.0 mg/L (Add health language listed below if detect is over 300 ppb) |   |                          |                  |         |                      |   |
| pH   | Daily 2022  | 7.1- 7.8                 | 7.49             | 6.5-8.5 | N/A                  | Runoff and leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence |

| Unregulated secondary Contaminants   | Date(s) Collected | Result or Range Detected | Average Detected | SMCL  | ORSG | Possible Source   |
|--|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------|------|---|
| *EPA has established a lifetime Health Advisory (HA) of 0.3 mg/L and an acute HA at 1.0 mg/L |                   |                          |                  |       |      |   |
| Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether  | 6/14/2022         | .51                      | N/A              | 20-40 | 70   | Fuel additive; leaks and spills from gasoline storage tanks |

*Manganese is a naturally occurring mineral found in rocks, soil, groundwater, and surface water. Manganese is necessary for proper nutrition and is part of a healthy diet, but can have undesirable effects on certain sensitive populations at elevated concentrations. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and MassDEP have set an aesthetics-based Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) for manganese of 50 ug/L (microgram per liter), or 50 parts per billion. In addition, MassDEP's Office of Research and Standards (ORS) has set a drinking water guideline for manganese (ORSG), which closely follows the EPA public health advisory for manganese. **Drinking water may naturally have manganese and, when concentrations are greater than 50 ug/L, the water maybe discolored and taste bad. Over a lifetime, the EPA recommends that people limit their consumption of water with levels over 1000 ug/L, primarily due to concerns about the possible neurological effects. Children up to one year of age should not be given water with manganese concentrations over 300 ug/L, nor should formula for infants be made with that water for longer than 10 days.** The ORSG differs from the EPA's health advisory because it expands the age group to which a lower manganese concentration applies from children less than six months of age to children up to one year of age to address concerns about children's susceptibility to manganese toxicity. See EPA Drinking Water Health Advisory for manganese at: [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-09/documents/support\\_cc1\\_magnese\\_dwreport\\_0\\_p\\_df](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-09/documents/support_cc1_magnese_dwreport_0_p_df) and MassDEP Office of Research and Standards (ORSG)for manganese <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/lead-and-other-contaminants-in-drinking-water.html#11>*

## 6. COMPLIANCE WITH DRINKING WATER REGS

### Drinking Water Violations:

#### Monitoring and Reporting of Compliance Data

Three notices of non-compliance were issued to the East Brookfield Water Department in the year of 2021 by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection:

**Notice of noncompliance** - NON-CE-22-5D00013023-CSA, Lead and Copper Rule, Monitoring period 6/1/2021-9/30/2021. 20 TAPS REQ'D (16 REC'D).

Description of violations under M.G.L c. 111 sec. 159-160 and 310 CMR 22.00:

- *Failure to report to MassDEP analytical results for the contaminant(s) and monitoring period(s) specified in section B, as required by 310 CMR 22.15(2) and/ or 310 CMR 22.03(13);*
- *Failure to monitor for the contaminant(s) and monitoring period(s) set forth in section B, as required by 310 CMR 22.03(1), 310 CMR 22.03(2) and/or 310 CMR 22.03(10).*
- *Failure to notify MassDEP of the PWS's failure to monitor, as required by 310 CMR 22.15(1)a.*

We have since taken the required lead and copper samples. The samples showed we are meeting drinking water standards. A public notice requirement was issued to the East Brookfield Water Department. The health effects of this violation are unknown.

**Notice of Noncompliance** - NON-CE-22-5D00012951-CSA, Iron and Manganese, Monitoring periods 7/1/2021 – 9/30/2021, 10/1/2021 – 12/31/2021.

Description of violations under M.G.L c. 111 sec. 159-160 and 310 CMR 22.00:

- *Failure to report to MassDEP analytical results for the contaminant(s) and monitoring period(s) specified in section B, as required by 310 CMR 22.15(2) and/ or 310 CMR 22.03(13);*
- *Failure to monitor for the contaminant(s) and monitoring period(s) set forth in section B, as required by 310 CMR 22.03(1), 310 CMR 22.03(2) and/or 310 CMR 22.03(10).*
- *Failure to notify MassDEP of the PWS's failure to monitor, as required by 310 CMR 22.15(1)a.*

We have since taken the required iron and manganese samples. The samples showed we are meeting drinking water standards. A public notice requirement was issued to the East Brookfield Water Department. The health effects of this violation are unknown.

**Notice of Noncompliance** – NON-CE-22-5D00013600-CSA, Consumer Notification Violation 6/1/2021 – 9/30/2021.

Description of violations under M.G.L c. 111 sec. 159-160 and 310 CMR 22.00:

- *Failure to submit completed certification form including a sample copy of consumer notification to MassDEP within 90 days of the end of the monitoring period in which lead and copper samples were collected. Failure of notification of sampling program participants as required by 310 CMR 22.06B(11)(f)3.*

Our system received notice of noncompliance on 7/13/2022 for late reporting. We are required to certify to MassDEP within 90 days of the end of the monitoring period that consumer notices were delivered to participants of our lead and copper sampling program. We submitted the certification to MassDEP late.

An administrative consent order (ACO) was issued to the Town of East Brookfield on 12/27/2019 and on 6/17/2021 by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. In complying with this order, a number of projects have thus far been completed including:

- Substantial completion of the 2021 water main replacement project DWSRF 6717 consisting of a new 12" water main on Route 9 from the Brookfield town line east to Harrington Street including installation of new valves, fire hydrants and service line connections.
- WS21B pilot study to evaluate iron and manganese removal at the existing West Street well using greensand plus pressure filtration.
- Preliminary site location acquisition and preliminary design layout for a new water treatment plant at the existing West Street well.
- Acquisition of a property off of Doane Avenue adjacent to the existing water storage tank for a new storage tank.
- 90% completion of the water meter replacement program.
- Development of a fire hydrant inspection, maintenance and flushing program
- Development of a distribution system valve inspection, maintenance and exercising program.

### Health Effects Statements

Manganese is a naturally occurring mineral found in rocks, soil, groundwater, and surface water. Manganese is necessary for proper nutrition and is part of a healthy diet, but can have undesirable effects on certain sensitive populations at elevated concentrations. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and MassDEP have set an aesthetics-based Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) for manganese of 50 ug/L (microgram per liter), or 50 parts per billion. In addition, MassDEP's Office of Research and Standards (ORS) has set a drinking water guideline for manganese (ORSG), which closely follows the EPA public health advisory for manganese.

**Drinking water may naturally have manganese and, when concentrations are greater than 50 ug/L, the water may be discolored and taste bad. Over a lifetime, the EPA recommends that people limit their consumption of water with levels over 1000 ug/L, primarily due to concerns about the possible neurological effects. Children up to one year of age should not be given water with manganese concentrations over 300 ug/L, nor should formula for infants be made with that water for longer than 10 days.**

The ORSG differs from the EPA's health advisory because it expands the age group to which a lower manganese concentration applies from children less than six months of age to children up to one year of age to address concerns about children's susceptibility to manganese toxicity.

See EPA Drinking Water Health Advisory for manganese at:

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-09/documents/support\\_cc1\\_magnese\\_dwreport\\_0.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-09/documents/support_cc1_magnese_dwreport_0.pdf) and MassDEP Office of Research and Standards (ORS) for manganese

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/lead-and-other-contaminants-in-drinking-water.html#1>

## 7. EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

### Do I Need To Be Concerned about Certain Contaminants Detected in My Water?

Manganese is a naturally occurring mineral found in rocks, soil and groundwater, and surface water. Manganese is necessary for proper nutrition and is part of a healthy diet, but can have undesirable effects on certain sensitive populations at elevated concentrations. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and MassDEP have set an aesthetics-based Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) for manganese of 50 ug/L (micrograms per liter), or 50 parts per billion, and health advisory levels. In addition, EPA and MassDEP have also established public health advisory levels. **Drinking water may naturally have manganese and, when concentrations are greater than 50 µg/L, the water may be discolored and taste bad. Over a lifetime, EPA recommends that people drink water with manganese levels less than 300 µg/L and over the short term, EPA recommends that people limit their consumption of water with levels over 1000 ug/L, primarily due to concerns about possible neurological effects. Children up to 1 year of age should not be given water with manganese concentrations over 300 ug/L, nor should formula for infants be made with that water for longer than 10 days.** See:

[http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ccl/pdfs/reg\\_determine1/support\\_cc1\\_magnese\\_dwreport.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ccl/pdfs/reg_determine1/support_cc1_magnese_dwreport.pdf).

## **Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention**

The East Brookfield Water Department makes every effort to ensure that the water delivered to your home and business is clean, safe and free of contamination. Our staff works very hard to protect the quality of the water delivered to our customers from the time the water is extracted via deep wells from underground aquifers or withdrawal point from a surface water source, throughout the entire treatment and distribution system. But what happens when the water reaches your home or business? Is there still a need to protect the water quality from contamination caused by a cross-connection? If so, how?

### **What is a cross-connection?**

A cross-connection occurs whenever the drinking water supply is or could be in contact with potential sources of pollution or contamination. Cross-connections exist in piping arrangements or equipment that allows the drinking water to come in contact with non-potable liquids, solids, or gasses (hazardous to humans) in event of a backflow.

### **What is a backflow?**

Backflow is the undesired reverse of the water flow in the drinking water distribution lines. This backward flow of water can occur when the pressure created by equipment or a system such as a boiler or air-conditioning is higher than the water pressure inside the water distribution line (back pressure), or when the pressure in the distribution line drops due to routine occurrences such as water main breaks or heavy water demand causing the water to flow backward inside the water distribution system (back siphonage). Backflow is a problem that many water consumers are unaware of, a problem that each and every water customer has a responsibility to help prevent.

### **What can I do to help prevent a cross-connection?**

Without the proper protection something as simple as a garden hose has the potential to contaminate or pollute the drinking water lines in your house. In fact, over half of the country's cross-connection incidents involve unprotected garden hoses. There are very simple steps that you as a drinking water user can take to prevent such hazards, they are:

- NEVER submerge a hose in soapy water buckets, pet watering containers, pool, tubs, sinks, drains, or chemicals.
- NEVER attached a hose to a garden sprayer without the proper backflow preventer.
- Buy and install a hose bibb vacuum breaker in any threaded water fixture. The installation can be as easy as attaching a garden hose to a spigot. This inexpensive device is available at most hardware stores and home-improvement centers.
- Identify and be aware of potential cross-connections to your water line.
- Buy appliances and equipment with backflow preventers.
- Buy and install backflow prevention devices or assemblies for all high and moderate hazard connections.

If you are the owner or manager of a property that is being used as a commercial, industrial, or institutional facility you must have your property's plumbing system surveyed for cross-connection by your water purveyor. If your property has NOT been surveyed for cross-connection, contact your water department to schedule a cross-connection survey.

### **What is a Cross Connection and what can I do about it?**

A cross connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a polluted source. The pollution can come from your own home. For instance, you're going to spray fertilizer on your lawn. You hook up your hose to the sprayer that contains the fertilizer. If the water pressure drops at the same time you turn on the hose, the fertilizer may be sucked back into the drinking water pipes through the hose. This problem can be prevented by using an attachment on your hose called a backflow-prevention device.

The East Brookfield Water Department recommends the installation of backflow prevention devices, such as a low-cost hose bib vacuum breaker, for all inside and outside hose connections. You can purchase this at a hardware store or plumbing supply store. This is a great way for you to help protect the water in your home as well as the drinking water system in your town!