



CROSS-CONNECTION AWARENESS

OLALLA WATER SYSTEM

April 24, 2025

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) is requesting that all residents inspect their plumbing systems for any cross-connections. This is a continuation of the RDOS investigation into the source of the bacteriological results that have been reported over the last few months. The RDOS started by reviewing and inspecting all of its infrastructure earlier in the year, which has not resolved the problem.

A cross-connection is any actual or potential connection between the drinking water system and a non-treated source. Backflow is when the flow of water in a pipe reverses from the regular direction. When a cross-connection and backflow occur together, the result is often a contaminant entering the drinking water system. More information on cross-connections can be found on the RDOS website at rdos.bc.ca.

A common cross-connection found in residential water systems is privately-owned wells. If a property has an operational private well and a water service connection, the water system is at risk of backflowing into the community drinking water system and **potentially contaminating it**.

If you suspect you have a cross-connection on your property, please contact the RDOS and staff will inspect your system at no charge. The main goal is to find the source of the contamination and return the water system to its previous state.

For further information, please contact RDOS Public Works at 250-490-4106 or 250-490-4135 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

For after-hours water emergencies, please call RDOS Regional Dispatch at 250-490-4141.

Thank you for your cooperation.

April 24, 2025
RDOS Public Works