

An Ounce Of Prevention Is Worth A Pound Of Cure

By Dawn Ritchie

In Home Plumbing

A \$25 part can be all the difference between contaminated drinking water in your home and total peace of mind.

The **TrapGap™** is a backflow prevention device invented by an observant plumber who was concerned about a little known building code regulation he realized was being ignored. Ontario Building Code 7.6.2.2. (1)

The Home Health Hazard You May Be Unaware Of

"The building code changed back in the nineties, but no one was paying attention to this," says inventor Jay Milne. "And it happens everyday someplace—contamination backflow incidents, both large and small. Just Google: 'Stratford, Ontario and backflow' and you'll discover how car wash chemicals (2-butoxy-ethanol) found their way into the city's water source due to an improperly installed backflow prevention device. It sickened Stratford residents."

Preventing BackFlow Events

Just like cities, homeowners need to correctly install backflow preventers for their home plumbing systems to keep the water and sewage flows moving in the right directions. Milne says sewage can find its way into floor drains in residential laundry rooms, making the laundry room faucet a prime target for ecoli contamination if a backflow event occurs.

Backflow events can occur if the city's water system suddenly loses pressure. This can happen for numerous reasons, if a water main breaks for instance, or the fire department needs to tap into a fire hydrant to fight a nearby fire. Water pressure can suddenly drop, making your home vulnerable to a potential backflow event.

The **TrapGap™** is a relatively small plastic device that a plumber attaches to your plumbing system. It usually sits slightly above the faucet level and creates an inch-wide air gap that will act as a failsafe to prevent cross contamination between the sanitary drainage system and the laundry faucet.

"There are no moving parts in this device," says Milne. "So nothing needs to be serviced on a regular basis."

The Evolution of Our Plumbing System

So, why do we need to pay attention to this? "It's all part of the evolution of the plumbing system, says Milne. "Back in the good old days lead pipes were used to carry drinking water. It was accepted as the norm. Now we know better. Lead levels have an adverse affect on health and there was an immediate rush to replace lead pipes."

The recent lead contamination in the drinking water in Flint Michigan sent alarm bells ringing across North America because of the dire health ramifications. Today, a new concern about ecoli contamination in drinking water is growing.

The **TrapGap™** is one step a homeowner can take to help combat contamination in a home's 'cross connections.' Cross connections are plumbing lines which intersect the drinking water system with the sewage system at some point in the line. And the majority of homes have them, especially in the laundry room. A **TrapGap™** is a prime safety measure that will prevent backflow cross contamination.

Ask Your Plumber About Installing A **TrapGap™** Today

The **TrapGap™** is now available at these respected plumbing distributors: *EMCO Corporation, Noble, Wolseley, Desco, Yorkwest Plumbing and Near North Supply Inc.*

Proudly manufactured in Barrie, Ontario.
www.TrapGap.com

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