

Required Hose Bibb Vacuum Breakers (Backflow Prevention) For All Outdoor Faucets (Sill Cocks) - WI DNR



7 What is potentially dangerous about an unprotected sill cock?

The purpose of a sill cock is to permit easy attachment of a hose for outside watering purposes. However, a garden hose can be extremely hazardous because they are left submerged in swimming pools, lay in elevated locations (above the sill cock) watering shrubs, chemical sprayers are attached to hoses for weed-killing, etc.; and hoses are often left laying on the ground which may be contaminated with fertilizer, cess-pools, and garden chemicals.



8 What protection is required for sill cocks?

A hose bibb vacuum breaker should be installed on every sill cock to isolate garden hose applications thus protecting the potable water supply from contamination.

9 Should a hose bibb vacuum breaker be used on frost-free hydrants?

Definitely, providing the device is equipped with means to permit the line to drain after the hydrant is shut-off. A "removable" type hose bibb vacuum breaker could allow the hydrant to be drained, but the possibility exists that users might fail to remove it for draining purposes, thus defeating the benefit of the frost-proof hydrant feature. If the device is of the "Non-Removable" type, be sure it is equipped with means to drain the line to prevent winter freezing.



HOSE BIBB VACUUM BREAKER

10 Can an atmospheric type, anti-siphon vacuum breaker be installed on a hose bibb?

Theoretically yes, but practically no. An anti-siphon vacuum breaker must be elevated above the sill cock to operate properly. This would require elevated piping up to the vacuum breaker and down to the sill cock and is normally not a feasible installation. On the other hand, a hose bibb vacuum breaker can be attached directly to the sill cock, without plumbing changes and at minor cost.



HOSE BIBB VACUUM BREAKER
FOR FROST-PROOF HYDRANTS