

## ✓ What is the difference between a hose union and a bib tap?

A union tap is designed so a hose can be connected a bib tap is not.

## ✓ Why is a hose of concern?

Hoses attached to hose union taps are considered to be a high contamination risk. This is because backflow via a hosepipe submerged in a bucket, trough, puddle, drain or pond is a very real possibility.

To help prevent this all hose union taps must be supplied via an appropriate and adequate form of backflow protection rated equal to or higher than the highest contamination risk (fluid category) downstream for the type of backflow (back pressure or back siphonage) it is likely to be exposed to.

## ✓ What level of backflow risk is a hose union tap?

The backflow risks associated with hose union taps will vary dependent upon their use (intended or otherwise) and the environment in which they are sited. Ultimately it is for the local water undertaker to determine whether anything other than fluid category 5 backflow protection would be acceptable.

## ✓ What is a typical hose tap backflow risk categorisation?

Hose union taps are typically categorised as either a fluid category 3 or 5 risk.

Factors taken into account when assessing those supplying watering or irrigation systems included but are not limited to:

- The use of chemical additives. For example, fertilisers, herbicides, and insecticides.
- The irrigation system design. For example, pop-up sprinkler heads, seep hoses.
- How the system is installed. For example, what parts of the system are below ground or permanently fixed above ground.
- The size of the system and the environment in which it is installed.

The installation of an irrigation system must be notified, conditions are likely to apply.

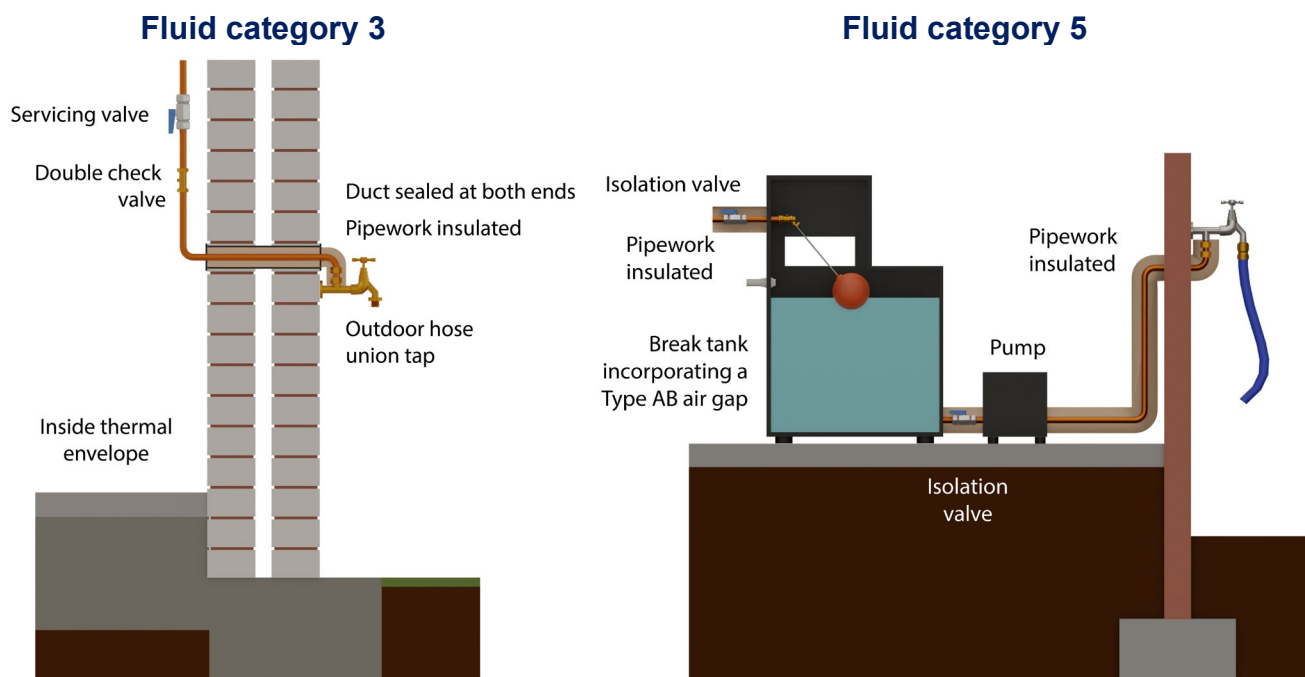
To avoid the risk of cross connection with other supplies irrigation system pipework should be clearly marked in accordance with [BS 1710](#)



## What forms of backflow protection are typically acceptable?

As some backflow prevention arrangements and devices have operational limitations you should always check with the local water undertaker to make sure they are suitable for the intended application.

Examples of typical fluid category 3 and 5 backflow protection arrangements are provided below.



## If the hose is fitted with a trigger will backflow protection still be required?

Yes, flow control devices, such as triggers with self-closing mechanisms are not a recognised form of backflow protection.

Their use is however recommended as they help to prevent waste.

**Please note other requirements apply refer to the Guidance published by Water Regs UK for further information**  
<https://www.waterregsuk.co.uk/guidance/>



*This is informative, non-statutory guidance and intended for general guidance purposes only; it is subject to change. Conformity with this information should not be relied upon as guaranteeing compliance with the water fittings regulations/byelaws or no enforcement action will be taken by water undertakers. Water Regs UK accepts no liability for loss, indirect or consequential loss arising from or in connection with this guidance document.*