

## Hose Bibb Vacuum Breaker (HBVB) Program

The HBVB Program is a subsection of the North Chelmsford Water District Cross-Connection Control/Backflow Program. We identify points in the drinking water distribution system where potable (drinkable) water and a source of contamination meet and enforce governing federal, state, and local regulations to prevent any contamination from entering the drinking water system.

*For more information regarding backflow prevention devices and cross-connection protection, please consult the "General Information" tab under "Cross-Connection Control/Backflow Program."*

---

**Q:** *What is an HBVB?*

**A:** An HBVB, or Hose Bibb Vacuum Breaker, is a backflow prevention device which prevents the reverse flow of potentially contaminated water from entering the public water distribution system. HBVBs are specifically designed to attach to hose connections.

**Q:** *What is the goal of using an HBVB?*

**A:** Properly installing an HBVB helps secure the quality, safety, and security of the North Chelmsford Water District distribution system.

**Q:** *Do I actually have to use HBVBs?*

**A:** Yes. Installing HBVBs is required by 310 CMR 22.22 (the Massachusetts state code governing cross-connection protection via backflow prevention devices) to prevent introduction of pesticides, herbicides, chemicals, and other contaminants into the North Chelmsford Water District distribution system.

**Q:** *When do I have to use an HBVB?*

**A:** Wherever you have a hose connection, such as for a garden hose.

**Q:** *How and where can I get an HBVB?*

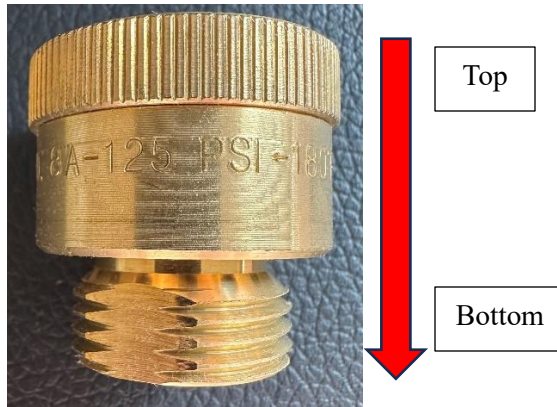
**A:** If you are eligible, as part of the North Chelmsford Water District's HBVB Program, you may pick up one (1) free HBVB at our office at 64 Washington St (North Chelmsford, MA). You will be asked to confirm your Customer ID/Water Account Number and present a valid driver's license or other suitable identification to verify that you are listed on that account. Additional or different HBVBs are available via your local hardware stores or online.

**Q:** *Who is eligible to receive an HBVB through the North Chelmsford Water District?*

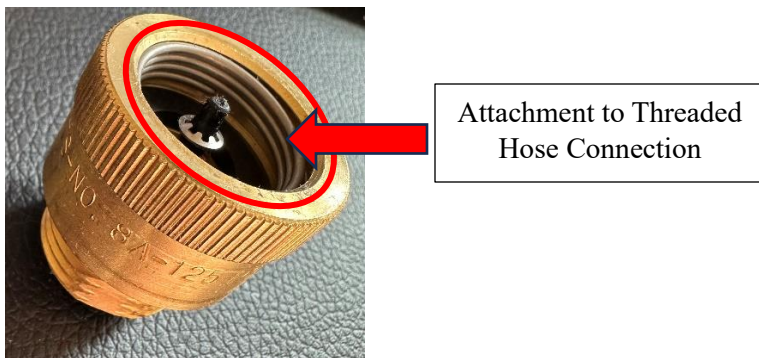
**A:** One (1) owner per North Chelmsford Water District water account is eligible to receive one (1) HBVB through our office; this includes North Chelmsford Water District water accounts for out-of-town properties (such as Tyngsboro, MA). A note will be made on the account with the date of pickup in order to ensure that supplies are available for each property.

**Q:** *How do I install an HBVB?*

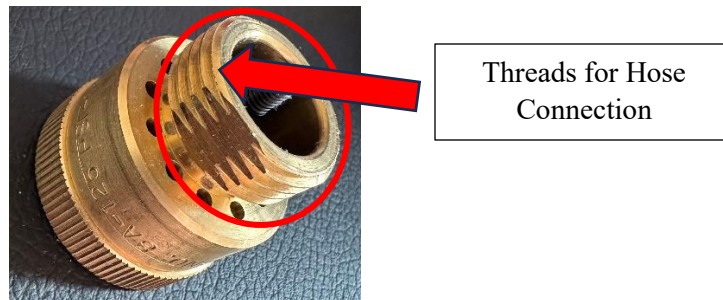
**A:** The top part (the wider part) screws onto your threaded hose connection (AKA, the faucet coming from your property). The bottom part (the narrower part) is where you attach your hose.



HBVB: Full View



HBVB: Top View



HBVB: Bottom View

**Q:** *Is there anything else I need to know about HBVBs?*

**A:** Yes. **These HBVBs contain more than 0.25% lead, which means that it is illegal to use them upstream of any faucet or plumbing system providing water for human consumption, such as for drinking or dishwashing.** Lead is known to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. **DO NOT DRINK OR CONSUME ANY WATER DOWNSTREAM OF AN HBVB.**

**Q:** *As a homeowner, what else can I do to prevent contamination from entering the drinking water system?*

**A:** Never submerge a hose in any substance or leave it in a bucket, sink, pool, etc. Call, email, or visit us if you have any questions about cross-connections, backflow, or protecting the system!