

FAQs- Cross Connection Control Program

Backflow Prevention

Walnut Valley Water District is committed to delivering safe, high quality water to our customers. Our extensive water quality program operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to ensure that the water delivered to our customers is kept free from harmful contaminants. An important part of our water quality program is the backflow prevention program. When a water line is connected to equipment containing a nonpotable substance, this is known as a cross-connection. Contamination may occur when water flows through a cross-connection from a nonpotable source, such as a sprinkler system or heating and cooling system, into the potable water system. This can happen through a process known as backflow.

What is backflow?

Backflow is water flowing in the opposite direction from its normal flow. WVWD's potable water system is designed to keep the water flowing to you. When hydraulic conditions within any water system deviate from "normal," the direction of water flow can be reversed. This creates a backflow condition and the potential for contaminated water entering the potable water distribution system.

What is a backflow prevention assembly?

A backflow prevention assembly is an approved, testable assembly which uses check valves and/or relief valves, in different configurations, to prevent potential contaminants from flowing into the potable (drinking) water system. An approved backflow prevention assembly has gone through an approval process at the Foundation for Hydraulic Research and Cross-Connection Control at the University of Southern California. This is a two-step process of laboratory tests and a 12-month field test. Only assemblies successfully completing the entire testing procedure are recognized by WVWD as approved backflow prevention assemblies.

Who is required to have a backflow prevention assembly?

Federal and State law requires that water suppliers protect their water systems from contamination. When a determination is made by WVWD that the potable (drinking) water system may be subject to contamination through a backflow condition, the customer will be notified and required to install an approved backflow prevention assembly. Per the District Rules and Regulations, Article 8, you have a period of sixty (60) days to complete all corrective action required, including the installation and testing of a District approved backflow prevention assembly.

Who can test backflow prevention assemblies?

The California Department of Health Services requires each of these assemblies to be tested annually. This testing is done by backflow assembly testers approved by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health. For Walnut Valley Water District, any Los Angeles County certified backflow prevention assembly tester may test the assemblies within the district. For information on certified backflow testers please visit www.publichealth.lacounty.gov. To speak with a WVWD regarding cross-connection and backflow prevention, please call 909-595-7554 Ext. 268.

Why do I have to get the backflow device tested?

To ensure that backflow assemblies are protecting public health and the environment. The State of California's Administrative Code, Title 17, Chapter 5, Public Health and Article 8 of our District's Rules and Regulations require the customer of any premises upon which cross-connection (backflow) control devices are installed to maintain the devices in a continuous state of good repair and to have the devices tested annually.

How do I protect myself from backflow theft?

There are cages designed to protect backflow devices from theft. Backflow devices are made of brass, copper, or galvanized steel pipe. Backflow enclosures are the best way to protect your equipment.