

### Approved Certified Backflow Testers:

Any individual holding a current Backflow Tester certification from the American Water Works Association (AWWA) may perform the annual test & submit the certified results on the required PCWA Backflow Prevention Test Form.

PCWA does not maintain a list of certified backflow testers but does distribute two lists (by geographic area) for customers' reference:

Western Placer County:  
**County of Sacramento -  
Environmental Management Department**

[www.emd.saccounty.net/Documents/lists/WP\\_CERTIFIED\\_TESTER\\_LIST.pdf](http://www.emd.saccounty.net/Documents/lists/WP_CERTIFIED_TESTER_LIST.pdf)

Eastern Placer County:  
**Truckee Donner Public Utility District**

[www.tdpud.org/index.php?cld=61](http://www.tdpud.org/index.php?cld=61)

### Approved Backflow Prevention Devices/ Assemblies:

PCWA does not maintain or distribute a list of approved devices. Most local plumbing supply stores are familiar with device information and requirements. Any device included on the most recent List of Approved Backflow Prevention Assemblies (DCDA, RPDA, RP & DC) from either the University of Southern California, State of California Department of Public Health, or Sacramento County Environmental Management Department is accepted by PCWA. You may contact those three agencies directly for information on how to obtain their respective approved device lists.

This brochure, as well as other printable backflow prevention forms, brochures and drawings, may be accessed from the Backflow Prevention section of the PCWA website –

[www.pcwa.net/level3/backflow.html](http://www.pcwa.net/level3/backflow.html)

Questions? Contact our Customer Services Department  
530.823.4850  
800.464.0030  
[customerservices@pcwa.net](mailto:customerservices@pcwa.net)



## BACKFLOW PREVENTION PROGRAM

### AN EXPLANATION



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[www.pcwa.net](http://www.pcwa.net)

This pamphlet is intended to explain a little more about backflow prevention and the Agency's program to prevent backflow.

#### What is "backflow"?

The reversal of the flow of water or mixtures of water and other liquids, gases, or other substances into the treated water supply.

**Backflow** occurs when the pressure in the distribution system drops, siphoning water from the consumer's system into the distribution system. This type is called "back siphonage." Some water customers have non-potable materials on their premises under pressure. This type of cross connection can create "back pressure" backflow.

Both are potentially dangerous to our water consumers. To protect the purity of our drinking water, it is very important that we, the water supplier, the health department plumbing authority, and the consumer work together.

**Requirements:** In accordance with the requirements of the California Administrative Code, Title 17, Chapter V, Sections 7583-7605, a backflow device will be required on the following:

#### PCWA SPECIFICATIONS

##### **Reduced Pressure Principle Device is required for:**

- Fire hydrant connections for construction water purposes.
- Residences where there is unapproved auxiliary water supply **with** inter-connection.
- Premises where there are irrigation systems into which fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides are, or can be, injected, spread, or sprayed.
- All services having a hydro-pneumatic system.
- All new and certain existing commercial connections.

##### **Double Check Device is required for:**

- Residences where there is unapproved auxiliary water supply **with no** inter-connection.
- Certain existing commercial connections.

##### **Double Check Detector Assembly is required for:**

- Fire protection systems **not** using chemicals.

#### **Reduced Pressure Principle Detector Assembly is required for:**

- Fire protection systems **using** chemicals.

Two or more services supplying water from different street mains to the same building, structure, or premises through which an inter-street main flow may occur, shall have at least a standard check valve on each water service to be located adjacent to and on the property side of the respective meters. Such check valve shall not be considered adequate if backflow protection is deemed necessary to protect the Agency's mains from pollution or contamination; in such cases the installation of approved backflow devices at such service connections shall be required.

**BACKFLOW DEVICES:** Only those devices approved by the California Department of Public Health shall be acceptable for installation by a water user connected to the Agency's potable water system.

**INSTALLATION:** Shall be in the manner prescribed in Section 7603, Title 17, of the California Administrative Code and as shown on standard drawing SA7, SA8 and SA43.

**AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY:** To identify the need and confirm the installation of a proper backflow device. The initial test and installation inspection will be done by the Agency. The Agency will monitor compliance with the state mandated annual testing requirement.

The following is available upon request: a list of approved backflow prevention devices; specification drawings SA7, SA8 and SA43; a list of certified testers; excerpts from the California Administrative Code, Title 17; a blank Agency test form.

**CUSTOMER RESPONSIBILITY:** The backflow device will be owned, installed, and tested yearly by the customer. **First**, the proper backflow device must be installed. **Second**, after the initial installation test by the Agency, the backflow device must be tested by a certified backflow tester annually. The certified test *report must be sent to our Customer Services Department.*

- **FROST PROTECTION:** If the device is exposed to freezing temperatures, protection is required. Frozen water in the backflow device will expand and cause cracks and breaks in the backflow assembly. The break will start leaking water when the pipes start to thaw. You may be without water if you do develop a leak or a break. The backflow assembly belongs to you and, therefore, is your responsibility to repair, not PCWA.
- **PROTECT THE BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY FROM FREEZING:** Local hardware stores have weatherproofing material to wrap the backflow assembly. Be sure to wrap the pipes from the ground up to the backflow and back down to the ground. A large bag specifically made for the backflow can be purchased to be placed over the backflow during the winter or a box can be built and placed over the backflow device. On firelines, covering must allow access to bypass meters for reading.
- **TURN OFF THE WATER TO THE BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY** if you do have a leak or break. There are two ¼-turn valves on each end of the backflow assembly. Normally, the valve closest to the meter will shut off the incoming water and other valve will stop water from siphoning back from the house or business.

**NON-COMPLIANCE:** This program is mandated by the State of California. PCWA is required to enforce the Backflow Prevention Program. Failure to comply with the backflow requirements can result in a discontinuation of water service.

#### REMINDERS:

- Backflow devices will reduce water pressure from 7 to 10 pounds.
- Backflow devices need to be protected from freezing temperatures.
- Provide access to bypass meters for reading on fireline services.
- It is your responsibility to maintain and repair a leaky or broken backflow device.