
WATER RULE 13
CROSS-CONNECTIONS
AND
POLLUTION OF SUPPLY

A. AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. It is the responsibility of the Water Utility to protect the public water supply system from contamination due to potential or actual unprotected Cross-Connections. The achievement of a Cross-Connection control program accomplishes this goal as required by State regulations. This Rule adopts by reference Title 17, incorporating Sections 7583 through 7605 of the California Code of Regulations entitled "Regulations Relating to Cross-Connections" herein. Dual water systems (auxiliary water) shall be considered as a recycled water system.
2. Under the direction of the Public Utilities Director, the Program Specialist is recognized as responsible for applying and enforcing the Water Utility Cross-Connection Control Program.
3. Unprotected Cross-Connections with the Water Utility's Potable Water supply are prohibited. The Water Utility Program Specialist shall conduct necessary surveys of the Customer's water uses to evaluate the potential Degree Of Hazards to the Potable Water supply. It shall be the Customer's responsibility to comply with the Water Utility's Backflow Protection requirements as a condition of receiving or continuing to receive water service. Whenever the Program Specialist decides Backflow Protection is necessary, an appropriate Approved Backflow Prevention Assembly shall be provided, installed and maintained at the expense of the Customer. The type of Service Protection shall be suitable to prevent backflow for the actual or potential Degree Of Hazard that exists on the Customer's Premises. All Potable Water service connections entering the Premises, buildings, or structures shall be protected. A water service used exclusively for fire protection shall be evaluated separately.
4. The Water Utility will maintain a list of Approved Backflow Prevention Assemblies. The type of Backflow Protection (listed in increasing level of protection) that may be installed includes: a double check valve assembly (DC), a reduced pressure principle assembly (RP), and an air-gap separation (AG). The Customer may select a higher level of protection than required by the Water Utility.

B. SURVEYS AND NOTIFICATION

1. **New Service Connection:** The Water Utility shall review all requests for permanent and temporary services to decide if Backflow Protection is needed. Plans must be submitted to the Utility upon request for review of potential unprotected Cross-Connection hazards as a condition of service from a new Service Connection. If it is decided that a backflow prevention assembly is necessary to protect the Water Utility's Potable Water system, the required assembly must be installed and tested before service will be established.
2. **Existing Service Connection:** The Water Utility may require an on-premise inspection or reinspection survey to evaluate the Cross-Connection hazards of any Premise to which it serves water. The Water Utility will request an inspection appointment with each affected Customer. Any Customer who cannot or will not allow an on-premise inspection of the water piping system shall be required to install the Approved Backflow Prevention Assembly the Water Utility considers necessary.
 - a. The Water Utility will notify the Customer of the survey inspection findings, listing any required corrective actions. A period of thirty (30) days will be given to complete all corrective actions requested, including installation of an Approved Backflow Prevention Assembly. A thirty (30) day extension may be granted in situations having extenuating circumstances.
 - b. A second notice will be sent to each Customer who does not take the required corrective action prescribed in the first notice. The second notice will give the Customer an additional two (2) week period to complete the required action. If no action is taken within the two (2) week period, the Water Utility may suspend water service to the affected Customer until the required corrective actions are completed.

C. TEST AND INSPECTION

1. A Customer may obtain a list of currently Approved Backflow Prevention Assemblies from the Water Utility. The Approved Backflow Prevention Assembly shall be installed in a manner as prescribed in Section 7603, Title 17. The location of the assembly shall be above grade as close as practical to the Water Service Connection. The Water Utility's Backflow Program Administrator must approve the location of a backflow prevention assembly installed for Service Protection.

2. An annual testing notice and a list of certified backflow prevention assembly testers will be sent to notify the water Customer when an assembly needs to be tested. It shall contain a date when the testing must be completed and results submitted to the Water Utility.
3. No assembly shall be placed into service unless it is functioning as required. Testing of backflow assemblies shall only be conducted by competent backflow prevention assembly testers certified by the Director of Public Health, County of Riverside, as specified in Riverside County Ordinance 525 and approved by the Director. Testing and maintenance costs are the responsibility of the water Customer. The Approved Backflow Prevention Assembly must be tested immediately after installation, relocation or repair and at least annually after that. More frequent testing than once a year may be required if considered necessary by the Water Utility. The Water Utility will provide an initial no-cost testing where Backflow Protection is installed at a site for service protection.
4. The water Customer will receive a written notice of any requirement to test the backflow prevention assembly from the Water Utility.
 - a. The Water Utility will notify each affected water Customer approximately two (2) weeks before the scheduled testing month for the backflow prevention assembly installed on their Service Connection. The written notice will include a list of available commercial testers and Test Report Form to be completed by the certified tester. This notice will give the water Customer one (1) month to have the assembly tested and submit the Report Form to the Water Utility showing the satisfactory testing results of the assembly have been completed. The Testing and Maintenance Report of backflow prevention assembly will be submitted to the Water Utility within fifteen (15) days from the completion of the work. Whenever a test shows a malfunction, the assembly shall be repaired within fifteen (15) days of observed failure and shall be retested.
 - b. A second notice, including a list of certified assembly testers, shall be sent to each Customer not having their backflow prevention assembly tested within the time limit prescribed in the first notice. The second notice will give the Customer an additional two (2) week period to complete the testing. If testing has not been completed, within the two (2) week period, the Water Utility will arrange for the testing and any needed repair to the assembly and bill the customer of record in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) plus parts to repair assembly. This charge will be billed to Customer on City's utility billing.

5. Approval must be obtained from the Water Utility before a backflow prevention assembly is removed, relocated or replaced.
 - a. **Removal:** The use of an assembly may be discontinued and the assembly removed from service upon presentation of sufficient evidence to the Water Utility to verify that a hazard no longer exists and is not likely to be created in the future.
 - b. **Repair:** An assembly may be removed for repair provided another Approved Backflow Prevention Assembly is temporarily installed or the water use is discontinued until the repairing of the unit is completed. A retesting of the unit will be required following the assembly relocation.
 - c. **Relocation:** Relocation of an Approved Backflow Prevention Assembly is acceptable with prior approval of the Water Utility. The new location will satisfy all installation requirements. A retesting of the unit will be required following the assembly relocation.
 - d. **Replacement:** An assembly may be removed and replaced provided the Customer use is discontinued until the replacement assembly is installed. All replacement assemblies must be approved by the Water Utility and be appropriate for the Degree Of Hazard involved.

D. WATER SERVICE TERMINATION

1. To insure the health and safety of all customers of the domestic system, the procedure for terminating water service shall be initiated when the Water Utility encounters Customers that represent a clear and immediate hazard to the Potable Water supply that cannot be immediately eliminated. Conditions or water uses that create a basis for water service termination shall include, but not be limited to, the following items:
 - a. Refusal or unnecessary delay in installing, testing, repairing or replacing a required Approved Backflow Prevention Assembly.

Termination Procedure: The Water Utility will terminate service after two (2) written notices have been sent specifying needed corrective action and the period for compliance. If no action is taken within the allowed time, the water service may be terminated.
 - b. Direct or Indirect Connection between the Potable Water system and a sewer line.

Termination Procedure: Reasonable effort will be made to advise the Customer of the intent to terminate the water service. The water service will be turned off and the service valve locked. The service will remain inactive until correction of the violations has been approved by the Water Utility.

- c. Unprotected Direct or Indirect Connection between the Potable Water system and a system or equipment containing contaminants or an Auxiliary Water System.

Termination Procedure: The same as Rule No. 13 D.1.b. above.

- d. A situation that presents an immediate health hazard to the public water system.

Termination Procedure: The same as Rule No. 13 D.1.b. above.