



IF YOU HAVE A LEAK / BREAK

There are two 1/4 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.

If the backflow device is leaking, broken or fails during annual testing, please contact a certified backflow technician to repair or replace the device.

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.

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.

MORE INFORMATION

The following is available upon request: a list of approved backflow prevention devices; specification drawings S206, S207 and S509; a list of certified testers; a copy of PCWA's backflow policy; a blank Agency test form.

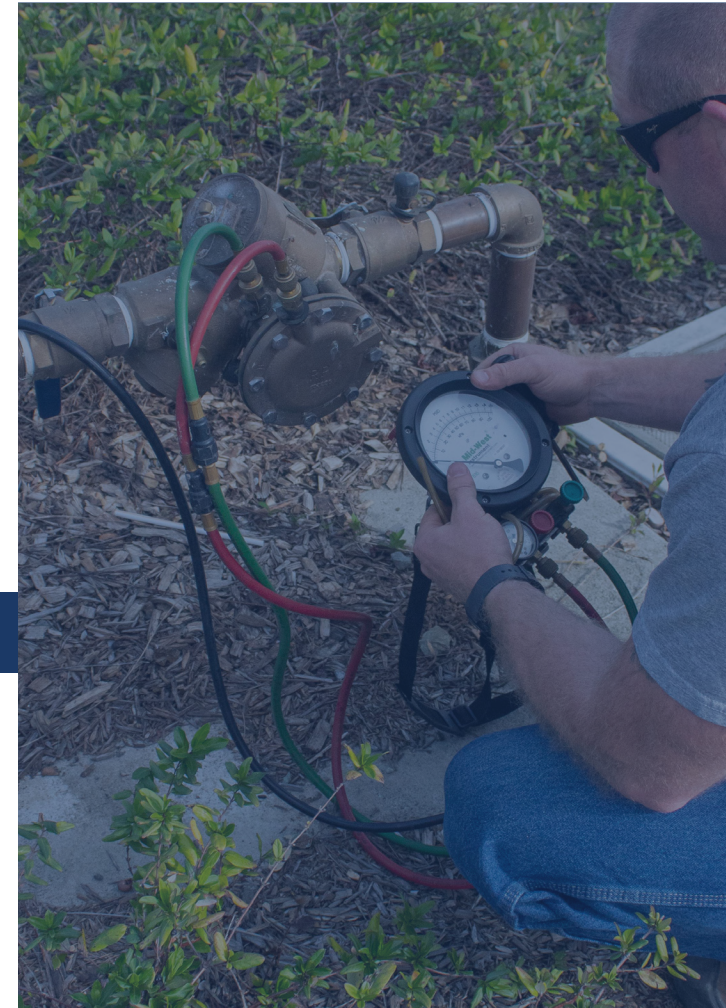
This brochure, as well as other printable specifications and drawings, may be accessed from the Backflow Prevention section of the PCWA website.

PCWA
(530) 823-4998
backflow@pcwa.net

www.pcwa.net/services/backflow-prevention



BACKFLOW PREVENTION PROGRAM



**A GUIDE TO
PREVENTING BACKFLOW**

WHAT IS BACKFLOW?

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

This 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 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 and PCWA policy, a backflow device will be required on the following:

REDUCED PRESSURE PRINCIPLE DEVICE (RP):

- Residences where there is a non-potable, second source of water.
- Any property that has a sewer lift station.
- Any property where substances harmful to health are handled.
- All new and certain existing commercial connections.
- Premises where there are irrigation systems into which fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides are, or can be, injected, spread, or sprayed.
- Fire hydrant connections for construction water purposes.

DOUBLE CHECK DETECTOR ASSEMBLY (DCDA):

- All Commercial Fire protection systems using class I or II.

REDUCED PRESSURE PRINCIPLE DETECTOR ASSEMBLY (RPDA):

- All Commercial Fire protection systems using class III, IV, V, or VI.
- Residential Fire protection using class III, IV, V or VI

BACKFLOW DEVICE INSTALLATION

Only those devices approved by PCWA 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 S206, S207 and S509.

If you have any questions prior to installing your backflow device, please call our backflow line at (530) 823-4998 and set up a pre-install inspection/consultation.



INSTALLATION REMINDERS

- Backflow devices will reduce water pressure by at least 10 psi.
- Backflow devices need to be protected from freezing temperatures.
- Provide access to bypass meters for reading on fireline services.

AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY

- To identify hazards that require a backflow device to be installed.
- Perform an initial inspection to ensure the device was installed to meet agency standards.
- Enforce the Cross-Connection Control Program as mandated by the State of California.



CUSTOMER RESPONSIBILITY

The backflow device will be owned and maintained by the customer, this includes any leaks or breaks.

INITIAL RESPONSIBILITY:

- Have the proper backflow device installed
- Have backflow device tested by a certified tester and sent to the agency (or request agency test)

ANNUAL RESPONSIBILITY:

- Have the device tested and ensure test report is submitted via our automated backflow tracking system (see below) by your tester before the due date.

APPROVED BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICES AND ASSEMBLIES

PCWA has a simplified recommended list of approved devices (DCDA, RPDA, & RP). Most local plumbing supply stores are familiar with device information and requirements.

APPROVED CERTIFIED BACKFLOW TESTERS

All approved backflow testers must be AWAA certified and submit calibration certificates to BSI Online, PCWA's automated backflow tracking system at:

BSI Online

(888) 966-6050

support@backflow.com

www.bsonline.com

For a list of approved testers, please contact PCWA at (530) 823-4998 or backflow@pcwa.net.