



HOW TO OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR  
**Cross-Connection Control**

CITY OF SAN DIEGO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
 1222 FIRST AVENUE, MS 301, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101-4101

INFORMATION  
 BULLETIN

**113**

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This information bulletin describes the City standards and minimum requirements related to cross-connection control/backflow protection review. For further information on the City's Connection Control and Backflow Prevention Program, visit the [Public Utilities Department's](#) web site or visit the Development Services Development Permit Information counter located at 1222 1st Avenue, Third Floor.

**Documents referenced in this Information Bulletin**

- [Project Submittal Manual](#)
- [Information Bulletin 103, Fee Schedule and Worksheet for Mechanical, Plumbing/Gas, Electrical](#)
- [Information Bulletin 122, How to Prepare a Site Plan and Vicinity Map](#)
- [Information Bulletin 503, Fee Deposit Schedule for Development & Policy Approvals/Permit](#)
- [Schedule for Water and Sewer Fees](#)
- [San Diego Regional Standard Drawings](#)

**I. DEFINITIONS**

**A. Cross-Connection:**

Any unprotected actual or potential connection or structural arrangement between a public or a consumer's potable water system and any other source or system through which it is possible to introduce into any part of the potable system any used water, industrial fluid, gas or substance other than the intended potable water with which the system is supplied.

**B. Backflow:**

The undesirable reversal of flow of water or mixtures of water and other liquids, gases or other substances into the distribution pipes of the potable supply of water from any source or sources.

**C. Reduced Pressure Principle Backflow Prevention Assembly ("RP"):**

An assembly containing two independently acting approved check valves together with a hydraulically operating, mechanically independent pressure differential relief valve located between the check valves and at the same time below the first check valve.

Approved "RPs" in the City of San Diego must be installed consistent with San Diego Regional Standard Drawings WR-01, WR-02 (see pages 22 & 23), and City of San Diego Standard Drawings SDW-100 & 120.

**D. Reduced Pressure Principle-Detector Backflow Prevention Assembly ("RPDA"):**

A specially designed assembly composed of a line-size approved reduced pressure principle backflow prevention assembly with a bypass containing a specific water meter and an approved reduced pressure principle backflow prevention assembly.

Approved "RPDA's" in the City of San Diego must be installed consistent with the San Diego Standard Drawings, SDW-120.

**II. A BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLY IS REQUIRED**

State of California Title 17 mandates that the City of San Diego, as the Water Purveyor, maintain a cross-connection control program to ensure that the drinking water supply remains pure. In response to this mandate, the City requires that all new water services be equipped with an approved backflow prevention assembly. Additionally, an existing water service not equipped with an approved backflow prevention assembly must have such an assembly installed if plumbing work on the system is proposed.

Please note the following exemptions: (1) domestic service for a single-family dwelling only; (2) fire services solely utilized for hydrants; and (3) in the case of an existing fire service, plumbing work involving fewer than six sprinkler heads.

**III. WHAT BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY IS REQUIRED?**

**A. Domestic & Irrigation Services**

A Reduced Pressure Principle Assembly ("RP") per San Diego Regional Standard Drawings WR-01, WR-02 & San Diego Standard Drawings SDW-100 & SDW-120, located immediately to the rear of the meter, on private property.

**B. Fire Services**

A Reduced Pressure Principle Detector Assembly ("RPDA") per San Diego Regional Standard Drawings WF-05 & San Diego Standard Drawings SDW-118, located on private property, as close to the property line as practical.

For a list of make and model numbers of approved assemblies, a list of certified backflow

prevention testers, or the approval of an alternate assembly type or location which deviates from the above criteria, please contact the Cross-Connection Control Section at (858) 614-5535.

#### **IV. REVIEW PROCESS**

A plan review for cross-connection control is performed as part of the building permit review. For information regarding submittal and review requirements, refer to the Project Submittal Manual.

The following information must be provided on the plot plan/site plan.

1. The location of all new and existing water meters to the property.
2. The backflow prevention assembly type and location.
3. Indication if the backflow assembly is existing or proposed.

A separate plumbing permit is required for the installation of the cross-connection control device. See section V.

Plans for fire sprinkler systems, which had been deferred from the associated building permit, must be submitted. However, preliminary Cross-Connection Control review is available “over-the-counter”, to ensure that plans meet acceptable criteria prior to submittal. The review should be done by appointment. Call (619) 446-5300 for scheduling an appointment. Please describe your project in detail so that the correct type of appointment can be scheduled for most efficient service.

#### **V. FEES**

##### **A. Plan Review Fees:**

There is a \$88.00 plan review fee associated with Cross-Connection Control plan check.

See Information Bulletin 103 “Mechanical, Plumbing/Gas, Electrical” for fees associated with the required plumbing permit to install the back flow preventor.