



The City of



Public Utilities Department

FAQ

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why do I have to install a backflow prevention assembly?

To protect customers of public water providers, the Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Act, State Department of Public Health and Uniform Plumbing Code require all sites with potential cross-connections be equipped with a backflow prevention assembly. The City of San Diego has adopted codes, policies and procedures to ensure compliance with these regulations and to protect the public water system.

How can I help prevent a dangerous backflow situation?

Working with the Cross-Connection Control Program (CCCP), you can eliminate cross connections through approved methods and by installing an approved backflow prevention assembly when a potential hazard is found.

What is a backflow assembly?

Backflow assemblies are devices designed to prevent water from flowing back into the public water system.

Where do I install this device?

It must be installed as close as practical to the water meter, as approved by the Public Utilities Department. This reduces the chance of an unprotected/unauthorized connection being made between the meter and the backflow device.

Does my backflow assembly need to be tested?

Yes. The City of San Diego requires that an approved tester check all backflow assemblies at the time of installation, annually after installation and after any relocation of the device. Backflow assembly testers are private contractors who must report the test results to the City following the test.

Who is on the City of San Diego's Tester List?

The list consists of individuals certified by the American Water Works Association or the American Backflow Prevention Association to be a backflow tester. There is no fee to be on the list and anyone with these certifications can fill out an application to be included. A list of approved testers is available on the City of San Diego website at https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/backflowtesters_0.pdf

Will the City Notify me of my Annual Backflow test date?

Yes. The Cross Connection Control Program provides annual backflow testing reminders as shown in the table on the next page.





Timeline

First notice mailed	45 days before due date
Second notice mailed	15 days before due date
Five day notice of water service termination mailed	Due date
Water service terminated. The City may also pursue other options to achieve compliance (administrative citation, civil penalties).	Any time after due date

Where will my annual testing notification be mailed?

Your annual testing reminder will be mailed to the billing address used for your City of San Diego water utility bill unless you have provided a different mailing address to the CCCP using the official [Mailing Address Update Form](#). Please note, if you have a notification sent to an address other than your normal billing address, it is your responsibility to ensure that the CCCP is notified directly of any changes. Failure to provide the CCCP with updated mailing information will not prevent the CCCP from terminating water service due to non-compliance of annual testing requirements.

Where are the most common cross-connections found?

Whenever a plumbing fixture is connected to the drinking water supply, a potential for cross-connection exists. Fortunately, many plumbing fixtures have built-in backflow protection. Here are some examples of cross-connections that can lead to backflow to the public water system:

- Wash basins and service sinks
- Laboratory equipment
- Irrigation or lawn sprinkler systems
- Swimming pools and spas
- Solar heat systems
- Fire sprinkler systems
- Auxiliary water supplies (wells, storage tanks and second feeds)
- Photo developing equipment
- Chemical feed equipment
- Attachment to hoses for applying weed killer/fertilizer or to flush antifreeze
- Food and beverage processing equipment
- Ornamental fountains
- Boilers
- Hose bibs

Where can I find the relevant regulation and policies regarding Cross Connection Control and Backflow prevention?

- Code of Federal Regulations, Safe Drinking Water Act of 1986
- Code of California Regulations Title 17 and Title 22
- State of California Water Code, Chapter 1, Section 110, Chapter 8, Section 500 and Chapter 723, Sections 13553, 13554.2, and 13554.3
- State of California Health and Safety Code Section 13114.7
- California Plumbing Code (CPC)
- California Fire Code (CFC)
- City of San Diego Municipal Code (MC) Chapter IV, Article 4, Section 44.00 and Chapter VI, Article 7, Section 67.00
- City of San Diego Fire Department