



SECTION 26
PROTECTION OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

In making plumbing connections, the customer is required to comply with Public Law 99-339 -The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1986, and the California Code of Regulations Title 17--Public Health. The water purveyor has the primary responsibility for protecting the public water supply from contamination by implementation of a cross-connection program.

Such regulations prohibit:

- unprotected cross-connections between a domestic water supply and any auxiliary water supply, or between a potable water supply and a nonpotable water supply;
- water service to a premises where there is a probability that a pollutant, contaminant, system or plumbing hazard may be created;
- water service where materials dangerous to health or toxic substances in toxic concentrations are handled; or
- water service where the water system is unstable and cross-connections may be installed or reinstalled.

Accordingly, the District requires the installation of backflow prevention devices under the following conditions:

- where another source of water including recycled water, whether cross-connected or not, is in use or is available for use; or
- where contaminated liquid or soluble substances of any kind are used, produced or processed.

Where a backflow device or other protective devices are used as a protection to the customer's plumbing system, a suitable pressure relief valve must be installed and maintained by the customer at the customer's expense. The relief valve shall be installed between the backflow device and the water heater.

In special cases, the District may require the customer to eliminate certain plumbing or piping connections as an additional precaution to prevent backflow.

The California Code of Regulations Title 17 requires the water purveyor to any premises on or for which backflow prevention devices or other protective devices are installed to assure that adequate maintenance and periodic testing are provided by the water user to ensure proper operation of these devices, and also requires that these devices be tested for water tightness and reliability at least once per year or more frequently if determined to be necessary by the water purveyor. Backflow prevention devices must be tested by persons who have demonstrated competency in testing of these devices to the water purveyor or health agency. Accordingly, the District will establish a list of contractors who have demonstrated competency in the testing of backflow prevention devices, and a list of approved devices that have passed laboratory and field evaluation tests performed by a DOHS recognized testing organization.



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Double-check valve preventers and other protective devices may be inspected and tested for water tightness by the District. If the inspection cannot be made without undue difficulty because of an obstruction or other interference, the customer will be notified and required to either correct the condition or have the inspection made at the customer's own expense and witnessed by the District.

Installation costs and the annual testing and maintenance of commercial backflow devices and residential backflow devices when a Reduced Pressure Principle Backflow Device (RP) is required shall be performed by a certified tester contracted by the consumer at the customer's expense. A copy of the tester's certification shall be forwarded to the District's Backflow Unit. Service to any commercial premises may be discontinued if it is found that dangerous or unprotected cross-connections exist, or if any defect is found in the backflow or other protective devices. Service will not be restored until such defects are corrected at the customer's expense and applicable District restoration charges have been paid.

Installation, testing and maintenance of double check valve backflow devices for single-family premises where a residential well exists (conforming single-family premises) shall be performed by the District, at its expense, during normal working hours. Service for any residential premise may be discontinued if it is found that dangerous or unprotected cross-connections exist.