

HELIX WATER DISTRICT



Guidelines for Backflow Prevention – Residential

This information sheet is intended to provide a summary of the District's Cross-Connection Control requirements for residential water service installations. Further information is available in the District's Policies and Procedures Manual, Section 5.3 – Cross-Connection Control, available on the HWD website.

Specific information can be obtained by contacting the District's Cross-Connection Control Coordinator, Darrin Teisher, at (619) 667-6224 or crossconnection@helixwater.org.

Residential dwellings mandated by the local fire marshal to have residential fire sprinkler systems are required to install a District-approved backflow prevention assembly (BPA) or passive purge system for system protection. There are three installation options for backflow prevention in residential dwellings.

If a Reduced Pressure or Double Check backflow assembly (Option 1 or 2) is selected, manufacturer cut sheets of the proposed backflow assembly shall be submitted to the District for approval. If Passive Purge (Option 3) is selected, building plans showing the passive purge system shall be submitted for review and approval.

Only Reduced Pressure or Double Check assemblies tested and approved by the University of Southern California Foundation for Cross-Connection Control Hydraulic Research shall be accepted. See list at <http://fccchr.usc.edu/list.html>.

Note: Water services designated for irrigation must have a Reduced Pressure backflow assembly.

Reduced Pressure BPA (Option 1) or Double Check BPA (Option 2):

Reduced Pressure (RP) and Double Check (DC) assemblies shall be installed in accordance with California State Plumbing Code or the local governing authority. Additionally, RP assemblies shall be installed per drawing WR-01 of the Water Agencies' Standards. See www.sdwas.org.

RP and DC assemblies shall be, at a minimum, the same size as the water meter size and in no case smaller than 3/4-inch.

RP assemblies shall be located as close as practical to the meter box. DC assemblies shall be installed just after the point of connection (POC) feeding the fire service.

RP and DC assemblies shall be tested by any company on the District's Approved Testers List within 30 days of installation. The certification test report form shall be mailed or emailed to the District's Cross-Connection Control Coordinator. RP and DC assemblies must be tested prior to water service activation.

Passive Purge System (Option 3):

Passive Purge System (PPS) must have an isolation valve on the downstream side of the POC for testing purposes.

The fixture that the PPS connects to cannot have flow above the alarm point.

All piping of the PPS must be inspected by the District's Cross-Connection Control Coordinator during rough plumbing and at finish.

The water meter will not be activated until the PPS has been completed or temporary backflow meter protection is in place.

Maintenance:

For PPS, no annual testing is required after final inspection by the District's Cross-Connection Control Coordinator.

For RP and DC assemblies, annual maintenance, testing, and certification are required and shall be done by a District-approved certified backflow assembly tester at the account holder or owner's expense. Copies of maintenance, repair, and certification data must be mailed or emailed to the District's Cross-Connection Control Coordinator.

Mailing Address:

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