



Timber Cove County Water District

Cross Connection Control Program – Customer Information & FAQ

What is a Cross Connection Control Program?

A Cross Connection Control Program is a state-mandated system designed to protect public drinking water from contamination caused by backflow or back-siphonage. The program requires water suppliers to identify, prevent, and correct potential cross connection hazards within their distribution systems.

What is a cross connection?

A cross connection is any actual or potential connection between the drinking water system and a source of contamination or pollution. These connections can allow unsafe water to flow backward into the potable water supply during pressure changes.

What is a backflow prevention device?

A backflow prevention device is a mechanical assembly installed on a customer's water service line to prevent water from flowing back into the District's potable water system. These devices protect the drinking water from being contaminated by irrigation systems, auxiliary water sources, hot tubs, pools, fire suppression systems, or other plumbing hazards.

Why is the District requiring these devices now?

California has updated its regulations requiring all public water systems—including small special districts—to establish and enforce comprehensive Cross Connection Control Programs. These changes require the installation and annual testing of backflow prevention devices where hazards exist.

What does District Regulation 5 require?

Regulation 5 states that all backflow preventers must be inspected and tested annually (or more frequently, if needed) by a certified tester. Testing is performed at the consumer's expense, and results must be submitted within 60 days of notice. Waivers may be granted only for properties with zero water usage for 12 consecutive months.

Who will perform the inspections and surveys?

The District has contracted R & H Sons, a certified third-party testing company, to complete system-wide cross connection surveys and test all existing backflow prevention devices.

How much does the inspection cost?

The cost is \$65.00 per device. Per Regulation 5, all inspection and testing expenses are the responsibility of the consumer.

Do I need to install a backflow prevention device?

All homeowners and lot owners with active service connections will be required to install a backflow device if one is not already present. This requirement is based on State regulations and District policy.

Will the District discuss costs and billing?

Yes. At the January 24, 2026 meeting, the District will discuss device requirements, installation costs, inspection fees, and how billing will occur for customers with existing devices.

What happens next?

- R & H Sons will complete the required surveys and testing.
- Customers will receive notice if a device must be installed.
- Customers with existing devices will be billed the \$65 inspection fee.
- Additional communication will be provided following the January 24 meeting.

Who can I contact with questions?

Timber Cove County Water District
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