

Timber Cove County Water District

REGULATION 5

CROSS-CONNECTION AND BACKFLOW PROTECTION

A. General

Timber Cove County Water District furnishes public water supplies under permits issued by the State of California Department of Health Services. In order to comply with the terms of these permits and all State regulations intended to protect the public water supply from contamination, an appropriate backflow preventer shall be installed at every service connection where one is required by regulations of the Department of Health Services. Some examples of state mandated sites needing devices are: Locations with an auxiliary water supply, locations handling pressurized fluids, locations with plumbing connections to non-potable piping. Need shall be determined by referring to the California State "Manual of Cross-Connection Control Procedures and Practices".

This regulation supplements and does not supersede local plumbing regulations, codes or ordinances, or State regulations related to water supply.

B. Evaluation of Hazard

As a condition of establishing and maintaining water service, the customer shall cooperate in the District's evaluation of potential hazard to the public water supply, which may be created as a result of conditions existing on a customer's premises. Customers will be responsible for completing and returning survey forms, and providing access for inspection as provided in Section C. In the event that the District must inspect a customer's plumbing system and premises due to the customer's failure to provide a completed survey form acceptable to the District in the time provided for return of the survey, an inspection fee of fifty dollars (\$50) shall be charged to the customer.

C. Access for Inspection

Timber Cove County Water District personnel and representatives of any governmental health agency shall have the right of ingress to and egress from the consumer's premises at all reasonable hours without prior notification for the purpose of investigating compliance with this regulation and State Health Department requirements.

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D. Type of Backflow Preventer Required

The District shall determine the type of preventer to be installed, giving consideration to the likelihood of backflow occurring, the type of contamination that may occur and applicable State regulations. The general types of backflow preventers the District may require in decreasing order of protection are: Air Gap (AG), Reduced Pressure Principle Device (RP) and Double Check Valve (DCV). RP type backflow preventers shall be required at all new meter/service connections. DCV or RP type backflow preventers shall be required where water treatment or filtration systems are present on the property. The District shall approve of the specific model of device prior to installation. Additionally, hose bib vacuum breakers are required on properties with drip irrigation systems or hot tubs/spas.

E. Installation

The manner and location of installation is subject to District approval. Backflow prevention devices may be installed by the District or others at the discretion of the consumer. The District shall inspect all installations. Installation and inspection of all backflow devices shall be at the consumer's expense.

F. Inspection and Testing of Backflow Preventers

A certified inspection and test of all backflow preventers shall be performed annually or more often in those instances where successive inspections indicate repeated failure or on such other schedule approved by the Department of Health Services. Installed devices may be tested by the District or others at the sole discretion of the District. Inspection and testing will be at the consumer's expense. Inspections will be conducted only by individuals certified by the State of California as backflow prevention testers. A report of a certified inspection will be submitted to the District within 60 days of notice that an inspection is due. A waiver of the requirement for annual inspection may be granted to properties that have had no water usage for the previous consecutive twelve months. Hose bib vacuum breakers are not considered to be a backflow preventer device and do not require submission of an annual inspection report.

G. Repairs or Replacement of Backflow Prevention Devices

Backflow devices that fail a performance test will be repaired or replaced by the owner. Repairs shall be made within 45 days of notice of device failure.

H. Charges for Installation, Testing and Maintenance Performed by the District

The consumer shall pay a charge for installation of the backflow preventer assembly in accordance with the District's costs. If installed on existing meter, additional installation cost will be added. Each consumer having a backflow prevention device serviced by the District may pay a monthly fee for servicing the device.

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I. Noncompliance

If a consumer fails to comply with this regulation by failure to install, test or correct deficiencies or by removal, tampering with or modifying a preventer, the District shall have the right to refuse or discontinue water service and, if it deems necessary, physically disconnect the consumer's piping from the District's distribution system.

J. Liability

The District shall not be liable for any injury to persons or damage to property which may result directly or indirectly from the installation, malfunction, testing or repair of any backflow preventer.

K. Temporary Service

Application for a temporary service connection for construction- related activities or other activities must be approved by the District. The District shall determine if a backflow prevention assembly is required. The applicant for temporary service shall install metering, flow restricting and/or pressure sustaining devices and a backflow preventer. The backflow preventer must be successfully inspected and tested prior to use of the temporary service connection. All costs for installation, inspection, testing and maintenance, and use fees for the temporary service connection shall be the responsibility of the applicant.

Approved or revised by Board:

03/27/1991

11/29/2011

01/11/2013

04/26/2013

05/24/2013

Legal Review 8/2013