

McKinstry University of Idaho Cross Connection Control Program

The university of Idaho is committed to provide quality safe drinking water to all its patrons. To help achieve this the University of Idaho has a Cross Connection control plan.

About Cross-Connection

The purpose of the cross-connection program is to protect the University- owned water supply system from this potential source of pollution or contamination. In order to protect the public water supply against contamination and pollution from cross- connections, the University water department has implemented a cross- connection control program as required by the “Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems.” (IDAPA 58.01.08.552.06)

The Cross- Connection Control Program

- An inspection program to locate cross- connections.
- Authority to require the installation and operation of adequate prevention assemblies.
- A monitoring system to ensure annual testing and inspection of installed assemblies.
- The Inspection program started by identifying any cross- connection with-in the systems starting with the highest potential danger to public health first and then continue to identify other which may jeopardize the safety of our drinking water.
- All new construction projects are evaluated for potential cross-connection and required to provide adequate backflow protection when necessary.
- All backflow assemblies are required to be tested annually in accordance with state code.
- All backflows assemble must be tested by a certified Idaho Backflow Assembly Tester.

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Backflow Assembly Test Requirements Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why am I required to have my backflow assembly tested?

A: The University of Idaho is required by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to conduct a Cross Connection Control program (IDAPA 58.01.08 subsection 552.06). The program will at a minimum include:

1. An inspection program to locate cross connections and determine required suitable protection.
2. Required installation and operation of adequate backflow prevention assemblies.
3. Annual inspections and testing of all installed backflow prevention assemblies by a tester licensed by a licensing authority recognized by the Department.
4. Discontinuance of service to any structure, facility, or premises where suitable backflow protection has not been provided for a cross connection.
5. Assemblies that cannot pass annual tests or those found to be defective shall be repaired, replaced, or isolated within ten (10) business days.

What is a Cross Connection?

Cross-connection are defined as actual or potential connections between a potable water supply and a non-potable source. The connection could allow contaminants to enter the drinking water supply. This includes manual or automatic sprinkler systems, soda fountains, fire suppression systems, garden hoses and many others. All cross-connections require backflow prevention.

What is Backflow?

Backflow is water and or substances flowing in the opposite direction of the normal and intended course. It is the process by which a cross-connection can introduce contaminants into the public drinking water system.

What ways does Backflow happen?

There is two ways for backflow to occur: **Backsiphonage** and **backpressure**.

Backsiphonage- Happens when there a negative pressure in a pipe, causing a vacuum and water flows in the wrong direction. The Vacuum can be caused by high water demand in another part of the system such as from a firefighting or main break.

Backpressure- Occurs when the pressure at eth part of the system is greater that the pressure coming in from the water main. This can happen when a garden hose is connected to a faulty pressure washer, an overheated water heater, from a tall building or water coming from higher elevations to lower elevations.

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IDAHO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE IDAPA 24.05.01 - Rules of the Bureau of Occupational Licenses Drinking Water & Wastewater Professionals

APPENDIX A IDAHO BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY TESTER CODE OF ETHICS AND STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

The purpose of this rule is to protect public health by setting minimum requirements and standards for licensed Backflow Assembly Testers in Idaho who inspect and field test backflow assemblies, backflow prevention devices and air gaps that protect public water systems.

1. Code of Ethics -- A licensed Backflow Assembly Tester shall:

- a. At all times, act in accordance with his/her primary obligation to perform his/her duties with due care and diligence to protect the safety, health and welfare of the public;
- b. Comply with the laws and rules governing Backflow Assembly Testers and all applicable state and federal laws and regulations relating to backflow assembly testing;
- c. Perform only those duties consistent with and appropriate to his/her experience, training, skills, abilities, and licensure;
- d. Be objective and truthful in all professional reports, statements, or testimony and include all relevant and pertinent information in such reports, statements or testimony.

2. Definitions:

- a. Backflow Prevention Assembly: an approved assembly such as a Double Check Valve Assembly (DCVA), a Pressure Vacuum Breaker Assembly (PVBA), a Reduced Pressure Backflow Assembly (RPBA), or a Spill-Resistant Pressure Vacuum Breaker Assembly (SVBA) used for the protection of the public water supply according to the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.08, "Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems," as administered by DEQ.
- b. Backflow Prevention Device: an approved device such as an Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker (AVB), which does not contain valves or test ports, or a method, such as an air gap, that is utilized to prevent cross connections to a public water supply.
- c. Calibration/Verification: the annual verification, calibration, or both of a backflow assembly field test kit by an instrument calibration laboratory/facility or by a person qualified to verify and calibrate a field test kit such as a manufacturer, dealer licensed to calibrate or verify field test kits, or calibration technician.
- d. Customer means the owner of the property or his/her authorized or appointed agent.
- e. Field Test Kit: an instrument, either mechanical or electronic in design, and all related fittings, tools, equipment and appurtenances necessary to perform field verification tests on backflow prevention assemblies.

3. Standards of Conduct Subject

Principle 1 -- A Backflow Assembly Tester shall act only within the scope of practice as set forth in the Board's laws and rules. A Backflow Assembly Tester must use due care and diligence in performing his/her duties.

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b. Principle 2 -- When conducting inspections and field tests of backflow prevention assemblies, a Backflow Assembly Tester must use test procedures that comply with standard field test procedures.

c. Principle 3 -- The Backflow Assembly Tester shall observe or inspect existing installations of backflow prevention assemblies to identify whether the assembly is properly installed and whether, in the opinion of the Backflow Assembly Tester, the assembly is adequate and appropriate for the degree of hazard posed to the Public Water System having jurisdiction over the assembly.

i. A Backflow Assembly Tester must report improperly installed assemblies to the customer and the Public Water System having jurisdiction over the backflow prevention assembly and also must note the discrepancy on the test report and submit the test report to the customer and the Public Water System having jurisdiction over the backflow prevention assembly.

ii. A Backflow Assembly Tester must note discrepancies regarding inadequate or inappropriate backflow prevention assemblies on the test report and submit the test report to the customer and the Public Water System having jurisdiction over the backflow prevention assembly.

d. Principle 4 -- A Backflow Assembly Tester shall use a properly working and calibrated field test kit that meets the requirements of the Pacific Northwest Section of the American Water Works Association Cross Connection Control Manual, Seventh Edition, November 2012. When requested by a Public Water System, a Backflow Assembly Tester shall submit the most recent calibration report that verifies the accuracy of the field kit. When requested by a Public Water System, a Backflow Assembly Tester shall submit proof of current licensure in Idaho as a Backflow Assembly Tester.

e. Principle 5 -- The Backflow Assembly Tester must competently use a field test kit, all tools, and other equipment and appurtenances necessary to inspect and field test backflow prevention assemblies, inspect air gaps and backflow prevention devices.

f. Principle 6 -- **When a backflow prevention assembly passes a field test, the Backflow Assembly Tester shall submit within fifteen (15) business days of performing the field test a passing test report to the customer and the Public Water System having jurisdiction over the backflow prevention assembly.**

g. Principle 7 -- **When a backflow prevention assembly is defective or fails to pass the field test, the Backflow Assembly Tester shall submit immediately, if possible, but no later than within two (2) business days, a failing field test report to the customer and the Public Water System having jurisdiction over the backflow prevention assembly.**

h. Principle 8 -- The Backflow Assembly Tester shall complete a test report for each backflow prevention assembly for which the Backflow Assembly Tester conducts a field test. A test report must be legible and contain all relevant and pertinent information pertaining to the field test including, at a minimum, the make, model, size, serial number, orientation, and test results for each test conducted.

i. A Backflow Assembly Tester shall record data and sign test reports only for backflow prevention assemblies for which the Backflow Assembly Tester has personally conducted the field test.

ii. A Backflow Assembly Tester shall not falsify the results of a backflow prevention assembly field test or inspection.