



BELLA VISTA WATER DISTRICT

**11368 E. STILLWATER WAY • REDDING, CALIFORNIA 96003-9510
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FACT SHEET -CROSS-CONNECTION (BACKFLOW) CONTROL PROGRAM

The District's public water system is designed for water to flow from the supplier to the user, not in reverse! A cross-connection or backflow condition is the unwanted reversal of flow through either back-pressure or back-siphonage into the potable water supply. This will occur whenever the pressure of the public water system becomes lower than the customer's system beyond the water meter. These conditions may be caused by elevation changes, surges, and pressure differentials generated by booster and injection pumps. Back-siphonage may occur from pressure differentials caused by reduced pressure within the potable water system and may occur as a result of power outages or excessive supply line demands caused by a pipeline break or firefighting. Please contact the District office if you are planning to inject any chemicals into your irrigation system so that we can assist you in complying with our requirements, prevent any potential contamination of the public water system, and ensure public health and safety.

Tasked with identifying and mitigating cross-connections in an ongoing effort to maintain a safe drinking water supply, the District has a Backflow Prevention Policy and a cross-connection control program, as required by federal and state regulations, pursuant to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Title 17 (Sections 7583—7605) of the California Code of Regulations, which mandate that the District has the primary responsibility for water quality control. These regulations may require the installation and annual testing of a cross-connection control device on your water service. Prior to the installation of your new service, a technician from the District will contact you and review your installation and circumstances to determine if a device is required and will inform you of his/her findings. If a device is required, the purchase cost of the device, installation and testing is solely the responsibility of the customer as a condition of water service. The device must be tested initially upon installation and annually thereafter with a certificate of inspection provided to the District. The District will provide annual testing services and will charge a cross-connection fee on your bimonthly water bill. This charge does not include parts or labor if the device fails.

A reduced pressure principle (RPP) backflow device installed immediately downstream of the water meter protects the public water system by preventing a reverse flow and is required for all commercial accounts and connections that represent a risk to the potable supply. Examples of other circumstances which require a backflow device include chemical, fertilizer or pesticide injection and properties with private wells, unless the well is rendered inoperable or abandoned in accordance with Shasta County standards.

Installation of the device to District standards can be performed by either the District or the customer's contractor. Installation requirements vary depending on the device size. Installation detailed drawings are available upon request. To protect your device, the District strongly recommends a thermal blanket to prevent freeze damage, a locking enclosure to prevent vandalism and bollards to protect the installation from vehicle damage. If you choose to padlock your thermal blanket or enclosure, please use a combination lock and provide the District with the combination to facilitate access and device testing.