

**CHAPTER 6.56
BACKFLOW AND CROSS-CONNECTIONS**

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6.56.010 **Purpose** The purpose of this policy is to:

1. Protect the District's potable water supply from the possibility of contamination or pollution by isolating within the customer's internal distribution system(s) or the customer's private water system(s) any contaminants or pollutants which could backflow into the public water systems.
2. Promote the elimination or control of existing cross-connections, actual or potential, between the customer's in-plant potable water system and non-potable water system, plumbing fixtures and industrial piping systems.
3. Provide for the maintenance of a continuing program of cross-connection control which will systematically and effectively prevent the contamination or pollution of all potable water systems.
4. The District shall have a backflow prevention and cross-connection control program which meets or exceeds all State and Federal rules and regulations.

6.56.020 **District Responsibilities** The District shall be responsible for the protection of the public potable water distribution system from contamination or pollution due to the backflow of contaminants or pollutants through the water service connection. It is the responsibility of the District to evaluate the hazards beyond the service connection in a customer's water system to determine whether pollutants or contaminants are, or may be, handled on the customer's premises in such a manner as to possibly permit contamination of the public water system. The District has the right to disconnect service to any customer whose water system may potentially harm the public water system.

When a hazard or potential hazard to the public water system is found or suspected, the customer shall be required to install an approved backflow prevention assembly at each public water service connection to the premises in accordance with District rules and regulations. The District shall not be responsible for any loss or damage directly or indirectly resulting from or caused by the proper, improper or negligent installation, operations, use, repair or maintenance of, or interfering with, any protective device by any customer or any other person.

6.56.030 **Customer Responsibilities**

6.56.030.1 The customer shall be required to furnish and install, in a manner approved by the District, and keep in good working order and safe condition, any and all backflow prevention assemblies. All backflow prevention assemblies shall be owned and maintained by the customer.

6.56.030.2 All backflow prevention assemblies shall be tested at the time of installation and annually thereafter. In the event of high hazard installations, the District may require more frequent testing. Backflow prevention assemblies shall be tested by a certified backflow prevention assembly tester and test reports shall be submitted to the District.

6.56.030.3 In the event that a backflow prevention assembly is found to be damaged, defective or operating improperly, it shall be repaired or replaced by the customer.

6.56.030.4 The customer shall not bypass or render inoperative any backflow prevention assembly. If a backflow prevention assembly is temporarily removed for repair or other reason, the customer shall provide an approved backflow prevention assembly, tested by a certified backflow prevention assembly tester at the time of installation.

6.56.030.5 The customer is to maintain an adequate heat source to any backflow prevention assembly housings in order to prevent cold weather from affecting the operation of the assembly.

6.56.030.6 Once notified of the need to install a backflow prevention assembly, the customer shall immediately install such approved assembly at the customer's own expense. Failure, refusal or inability on the part of the customer to install, have tested and maintain said assembly shall constitute sufficient grounds for disconnection of water service to the premises until such requirements have been satisfactorily met.

6.56.040 Protective Devices Required The protection required to prevent backflow into the public water system shall be commensurate with the degree of hazard that exists on the customer's premises. The District shall determine the type of backflow prevention assembly.

6.56.050 Testing and Maintenance All backflow prevention assemblies shall be tested annually to assure proper operation. In instances where a hazard is deemed great enough, testing may be required at more frequent intervals. Such intervals shall be determined by the District. The customer shall bear all costs of device testing. The cost of any maintenance required as a result of inspections or testing is the responsibility of the customer. Maintenance work shall be performed by private contract. Records of inspections, testing or repairs shall be kept by the District and made available to the appropriate regulatory agencies.

The District shall notify the customer when tests are required and supply the necessary test forms and instructions. These forms will be completed by the certified backflow-prevention tester and returned to the District by the date indicated.

If a device is found to be in non-compliance by inspection and/or testing, the customer shall be notified in writing. The customer shall correct any deficiency within 15 calendar days of notification, at which time the inspection shall be repeated. The District shall disconnect water service if a backflow prevention device has failed to be tested properly or properly maintained or installed. Notification of intent to terminate water service shall be commensurate with the hazard to public health and may be delivered to the tenant, owner, or both as the situation requires.

6.56.060 Fees and Charges Backflow prevention devices shall be subject to fees and charges to allow the District to recover the costs of administering the backflow prevention program. Such fees and charges shall be posted in a schedule approved by the District's Board of Director's.