

# BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLY

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### Q. What is a Backflow Prevention Assembly?

- A. A Backflow Prevention Assembly is a plumbing device that is most commonly installed between the water meter and the service main to the property.

### Q. Why are they installed?

- A. They are installed to protect the public & private drinking water supplies from cross-connections. These are plumbing requirements at the Federal, State and Local jurisdictions.

### Q. What does a backflow prevention assembly do?

- A. A properly functioning backflow prevention device only allows water to flow in one direction.

**For example: The direction of flow would be through the water meter to the Property - never allowing the water to reverse back through the water meter, into the public drinking water supply.**

### Q. Where is the backflow prevention assembly located?

- A. The backflow prevention assembly is normally located as close as practical to the service connection from your water supply. Commonly found behind the water meter.

### Q. Why does a backflow prevention assembly have to be tested?

- A. The backflow prevention assembly is a mechanical device with internal components such as check valves, seals, springs and rubber materials. These parts are subject to wear, fatigue and fouling. This is why backflow prevention devices are tested annually to ensure that they are functioning properly.

### Q. How often do the backflow prevention assemblies need to be tested?

- A. Title 17 of the California Health & Safety Code states that backflow prevention assemblies must be tested annually.

### Q. What happens if the backflow prevention assembly fails the initial test?

- A. It is necessary to bring the backflow prevention assembly up to a passing status. Though in most cases a simple service and cleaning will correct the problem, repairs may be necessary. Once cleaning or replacement of parts has been completed, you should request that your backflow tester re-test the device, documenting the passing status.

### Q. What is a cross-connection?

- A. A cross-connection is a direct or indirect arrangement of piping that allows the potable water supply to be connected to a contaminated source.

**An example would be a water service supplying water to a building and which also serves the irrigation system. The most common cross-connection is a garden hose submerged, or attached to contaminated fluids and undesirable substances.**