



**SECTION 26**  
**PROTECTION OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY**

In making plumbing connections, the customer is required to comply with Public Law 99-339 - The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1986, and the California State Water Resource Control Board's Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook (CCCPH). The water purveyor has the primary responsibility for protecting the public water supply from contamination by implementation of a cross-connection control program.

Such regulations prohibit:

- unprotected cross-connections between multiple domestic supplies, a domestic water supply and any auxiliary water supply, or between a potable water supply and a nonpotable water supply;
- water service to a premises where there is a probability that a pollutant, contaminant, or plumbing hazard may be created;
- water service where materials dangerous to health or toxic substances in toxic concentrations are handled; or
- water service where the water system is unstable and cross-connections may be installed or reinstalled.

Accordingly, the District requires the installation of a backflow preventer or other prevention methods under any of the following conditions:

- where another source of water, including recycled water, whether cross-connected or not, is in use or is available for use;
- where contaminated liquid or soluble substances of any kind are used, produced or processed; or
- where cross-connection hazards are identified.

Where a backflow preventer or other prevention method is used as a protection to the customer's plumbing system, a suitable pressure relief valve must be installed and maintained by the customer at the customer's expense. The relief valve shall be installed between the backflow preventer and the water heater.

When necessary, the District may require the customer to eliminate certain plumbing or piping connections as an additional precaution to prevent backflow.

The California State Water Resource Control Board's CCCPH requires the water purveyor to any premises on or for which a backflow preventer is installed to ensure that adequate maintenance and periodic testing are provided by the water customer to guarantee proper operation. According to the CCCPH, backflow preventers and airgaps must be inspected and tested at least once per year or more frequently if determined to be necessary by the water purveyor. Backflow preventers must be tested by persons who have demonstrated competency to the water purveyor or health agency. Accordingly, the



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District will establish a list of contractors who have demonstrated competency in the testing of backflow preventers, and a list of approved preventers that have passed laboratory and field evaluation tests performed by a testing organization that is recognized by the State Water Resource Control Board.

Backflow preventers and airgaps may be inspected and tested by the District. If the inspection cannot be made without undue difficulty because of an obstruction or other interference, the customer will be notified and required to either correct the condition or have the inspection made at the customer's own expense and witnessed by the District.

Installation costs and the annual testing and maintenance of backflow preventers shall be performed by a certified tester contracted by the customer at the customer's expense. Passing test reports must be received by EBMUD's Backflow Prevention Group annually for continued water service.

After July 1, 2025, District-owned backflow preventers on residential services shall no longer be installed, tested, or repaired at the District's expense. Any backflow preventers required to be installed, tested, or maintained must be performed by the customer at the customer's expense.

Service for any premises may be discontinued if it is found that dangerous or unprotected cross-connections exist or if the regulatory requirements are not met. Service will not be restored until such defects are corrected at the customer's expense and applicable District restoration charges have been paid.