



# Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control Rule

## *Information for customers*

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### Background

Public water systems across Colorado are committed to protecting their customers from backflow of contaminants into the drinking water system from cross connections. Backflow occurs when water flows in the wrong direction and can introduce contaminants backward into a potable water system and contaminate the water. The contaminated water can come from a connection with a non-potable contamination source (like a car wash, boiler or non-residential irrigation system). These connections are called cross-connections. Contaminated drinking water from cross-connections is a public health risk and must be prevented. All public water systems must comply with Colorado's Primary Drinking Water Regulations, which contains a specific rule to prevent backflow. This rule helps protect customers by making sure that backflow prevention assemblies are installed and tested annually. Customers also have a role in helping keep drinking water safe from backflow.

### Customer Responsibility

Backflow assemblies must be tested by licensed backflow testers and results must be reported to your water system by the timeframe they specify. Backflow testing is typically relatively inexpensive and quick. Failure to comply with the annual testing requirements may result in fines, having your water turned off and possible violations for your water system. If violations are issued to the water system, they may be required to notify all of their customers of the violation within 30 days and that it was caused by a customer not testing backflow assemblies as required. In the public notice, water systems can identify the customer that caused the violation.

Please be advised that under Colorado State Law CRS 25-1-114(1)(h) it is unlawful for anyone to create or allow a cross-connection. Failing to test a backflow assembly is essentially creating a cross-connection. Failing to comply with these and your water system's requirements puts people at risk of illness and is not allowed under state law.

### Behind in Testing Your Backflow Assemblies?

If you have been notified by your water system to test backflow assemblies and have not done so, please contact your water supplier immediately to coordinate to achieve compliance and protect your customers.

More information about backflow prevention is available on the CDPHE website at:  
<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/bpccc>