

GUIDELINES FOR BACKFLOW INSTALLATION AND REQUIREMENTS (Not Intended To Be All-Inclusive)

The following guidelines have been developed to assist in backflow installation. Each project is site specific

State of Policy: Cross Connections assemblies required for water service will remain the responsibility of the property owner. Testing and enforcement will be the responsibility of MWS or their authorized contractor. Cross Connection assemblies are state mandated for annual testing. MWS' responsibility will be for repairs from main to meter only.

All devices must meet University of Southern California specifications.

All backflow assemblies must be installed immediately behind the meter unless an alternate location has been approved by the MWS Variance Committee and include the Letter of Responsibility.

MWS' responsibility will be for repairs from main to and including #2 Shut Off Valve of radio read meter after one year.

Double Check and Double Detector Check Valve Assemblies may be installed vertically.

All materials used must meet [MWS published Approved Materials List - Water Distribution \(CLICK HERE TO VIEW LIST\)](#)

Reduced Pressure Backflow Prevention Devices installed at new locations and all replacement devices must be equipped with a "Y" strainer.

A mainline backflow device on a combination fire/domestic line does not require a "Y" strainer.

The relief valve must be installed a minimum of twelve (12) inches plus the diameter of the device above finish floor level. This height is not to exceed six (6) feet from the ground.

The Reduced Pressure Backflow Prevention Device (RPBP) cannot be used as a number two shut off or isolation valve for meter testing.

New commercial businesses considered to be low hazard may not be required to install a Reduced Pressure Backflow Prevention Device. This will be determined by a MWS inspector during a site visit or through the variance process.

All commercial water service connections will be surveyed yearly for hazard status as well as testing of all prevention devices. If it is determined conditions are low hazard; the owner may either remove the existing device or must continue to maintain it in working condition. If a customer would like to request a change in hazard status, a variance request should be submitted. If approved, customer must provide MWS with a letter of intent of usage and agreement to notify MWS of any changes.

Irrigation connections will always be high hazard and require RPBP devices.

High hazard premises include, but are not limited to, jails, laboratories, nursing homes, sanitariums, laundries, hotels/motels, restaurants, major office buildings (multi-story), apartment houses, condominiums, service stations, shopping centers, mobile home parks, swimming pools, parks, mortuaries, morgues, hospital and medical buildings, chemical plants, manufacturing/food/beverage plants, car wash, exterminating, airports and transportation facilities, greenhouses, baptisteries, commercial buildings with commercial ice machines. This includes triplexes (three units or more) served by one meter.

All DDCVA 20 feet from property line valve automatically will require an auto flusher assembly

Low hazard facility could include a one story office with bathrooms or one story retail shop with bathrooms.

You can request a variance by calling (615)862-7225, fax a written request to (615)862-7257, email request to mws.developmentservicescenter@nashville.gov .