

Backflow Information

Commercial buildings need a backflow device. A cross connection is any possible link connecting a source of pollution to a potable (safe) water supply. A backflow device is a mechanical device which interrupts or breaks the flow of contaminated water into the potable water supply. The District is required under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act – 1986 and the Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations to ensure safe drinking water to its customers and to develop and implement a Cross Connection Control/Backflow Device Program to protect its customers and its potable water supply.

History has determined that commercial users pose the greatest threat to potable water supplies and that a backflow device is effective in protecting the potable water supply from possible contamination.

The owner of the commercial tap is responsible for the installation and maintenance of the backflow device, including participating in the District's backflow inspection program by having the device inspected and tested annually by the District's Certified Backflow Inspection Contractor to ensure the device is working properly.

NEW! Backflow Prevention Assembly Testing Program

To protect the District's water system, the District initiated a new program in 2016 in which the District contracts with certified testers to perform testing and limited repair of the assembly.

All owners of Irrigation and Commercial devices are automatically scheduled for testing. The District will mail a letter describing the back-flow prevention assembly testing program to all Irrigation and Commercial customers in advance of the program. The letter will provide information about how the program is administered, what costs are associated with the program, and options available to the customer. Fire lines that require certified fire test technicians will still be the responsibility of the owner and are not a part of the District's testing program.

Willows Water District has contracted with (TBD) for the testing service. The testing begins in March and is usually completed by May. The testing process will require a brief, 15-minute interruption of water service and utilize less than one gallon of water. Once the back-flow prevention test has been completed, the technician will provide the test results to the District. The District will then provide you with a copy of the test results for your records. To set up electronic delivery of test results, please contact the office. It is required for you to be on site during the testing.

The cost of the District coordinated testing program is \$65 for a Standard Test and \$100 for a Confined Space Test, which includes the testing fee and an internal repair kit, if needed. The fee will appear on your April water bill following the completion of testing.

Limits of Testing

If an assembly is damaged beyond repair, the customer will be responsible for contacting a plumber to repair or re-install the assembly, having it tested, and submitting the test result to the District.

Fire Suppression Systems and related backflow devices are still required to be tested annually. If the designated Fire System Backflow Prevention Assembly is required by Fire Code to be tested by a Certified Fire tester, compliance with annual testing is the sole responsibility of the Owner.