

## SHOULD I PROTECT MY ASSEMBLY FROM THEFT?

Yes. Thefts of backflow assemblies are increasing at an alarming rate. The District recommends that our customers protect their backflow assemblies before a theft occurs. The cost of replacing these assemblies can be very expensive. The following precautionary measures are recommended by law enforcement, water purveyors, and plumbing contractors:

- Enclose your backflow assembly(ies) with a protective enclosure.
- Secure the enclosure with a tamper-proof lock (a break-away lock is easily opened and not recommended). In the event of an emergency, your maintenance crew should have a copy of the locks key.
- Paint the assembly(ies).
- Post a visible sign with a warning notice, such as: Theft and/or damage to this unit will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.
- Camouflage the unit by planting screening landscape approximately one foot from the backflow assembly. The camouflaging will make the unit less visible and will still allow access for necessary maintenance.

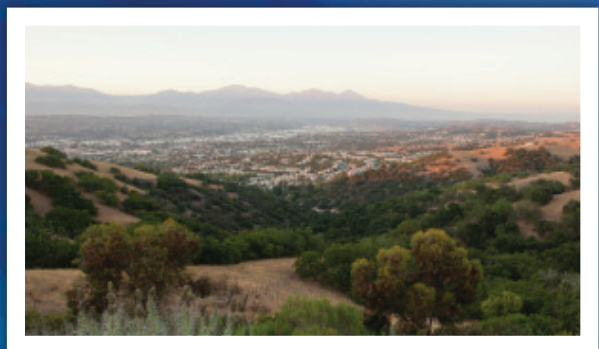
Please Note: When installing any protective equipment, it is important that our customers check the District's specifications to verify that the assembly will remain in compliance. Visit our website at [www.rowlandwater.com](http://www.rowlandwater.com) and navigate to Contractors/Developers for these specifications.



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## BACKFLOW & CROSS-CONNECTION PROGRAM



## INTRODUCTION TO BACKFLOW AND CROSS-CONNECTION

Water systems depend on pressure to keep water flowing in the proper direction. However, backflow can occur when there is a significant drop in the water pressure on the water districts side. When this happens, it is possible for polluted water from the customers plumbing system to reverse flow into the public water system. If the water in the customers system has come in contact with harmful substances and it backflows into the public drinking water system, it could cause illness, or in extreme cases, death.

Rowland Water District (RWD) is working hard to ensure its drinking water system remains safe and complies with all health standards. The District requires backflow prevention assemblies where mandated by law, and works with its customers to eliminate potential cross-connections.

This brochure provides answers to commonly asked questions about Cross-Connection and Backflow Prevention.

For additional information regarding Rowland Water Districts Cross-Connection Program please contact Dusty Moiso at 562-697-1726.



### AMERICAN BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSOCIATION EDUCATIONAL VIDEO



Watch a video on backflow.  
<http://youtu.be/tVRtfTlqCl0>

## WHAT IS CROSS-CONNECTION?

A cross-connection is any temporary or permanent connection between a public water system or consumers potable (drinking) water system and any source or system containing non-potable water or other substances. An example is the piping between a consumers potable water system and an auxiliary water system, cooling system, or irrigation system.

### WHY DO WATER SUPPLIERS NEED TO CONTROL CROSS-CONNECTIONS AND PROTECT AGAINST BACKFLOW?

Backflow into a public water system can pollute or contaminate the water in that system (i.e., backflow into a public water system can make the water in that system unusable or unsafe to drink). Each water supplier has a responsibility to provide water that is safe to drink. Consumers have confidence that water delivered to them through a public water system is safe to drink. In the best interest of its customers, each water supplier must take reasonable precautions to protect its public water system against backflow and back-siphonage.

### HOW TO PREVENT BACKFLOW OR CROSS-CONNECTION

Install one of the following:

1. Air Gap
2. Reduced Pressure Principal Assembly
3. Double Check Valve Assembly
4. Pressure Vacuum Breaker
5. Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker

The assembly used depends upon the degree of hazard to the drinking water system and the type of service/property. RWD will determine the type of assembly required.



Scan to view Install Specs for RP & DCDA  
Specs also available online at [www.rowlandwater.com](http://www.rowlandwater.com)

## IS THERE A LAW REQUIRING BACKFLOW?

The California Code of Regulations (Title 17) requires public water systems (Rowland Water District) to protect their water supplies from contamination by implementing a cross-connection control program. This requirement protects the public water system from cross-connections and prevents backflow situations.

### DO BACKFLOW ASSEMBLIES NEED TO BE TESTED?

Backflow assemblies need to be tested annually to make sure they are operating properly. RWD notifies the customer at least 45 days before the backflow assembly is due to be tested. The customer then contacts a backflow tester certified by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to have their test completed. Backflows must also be tested within 30 days of being installed or after being repaired.

### WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT TO MAINTAIN THE BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY?

The backflow assembly is part of the customers water system. RWD maintains the water line up to the water meter. All pipe, fixtures, etc. beyond this point are the owners responsibility, including the testing and maintenance of the backflow assembly. Property owners occasionally have agreements with the tenant or a property management company to maintain the backflow assembly. Check with your property owner to determine whose responsibility this is.



Scan to view Backflow Test Form  
Form also available online at [www.rowlandwater.com](http://www.rowlandwater.com)