

Cross-Connection Terms and Definitions

ABPA American Backflow Prevention Association

Auxiliary Water Sources Any water source of water on or available to the premises other than the water supplier's approved source(s) of water. These auxiliary sources of water may include but not limited to other public water system sources or other unapproved onsite source(s) which are not under the control of a public water system, such as a well, lake, spring, river, stream, harbor, and so forth. Auxiliary water sources may also include graywater, rain or stored waters, or recycled waters.

AWWA American Water Works Association

Backflow any unwanted flow of used or non-potable water or substance from any domestic, industrial or institutional piping system into the pure, potable water distribution system.

Backflow Protection Devices is a valve or assembly that is designed to prevent backsiphonage, backpressure or both.

Backpressure is when downstream piping pressure is greater than the upstream piping pressure, which reverses the normal flow of water.

Backsiphon is a sub-atmospheric pressure loss in the water line causing the flow of water to travel along the least resistant path.

Certified Backflow Tester is an individual, who completed either the 40-hour backflow preventer test specialist course or the 8-hour refresher course, successfully passed both written and practical tests and has a valid backflow preventer test specialist certificate with both a certification number and an expiration date.

Contaminant is a substance that causes illness or death if ingested; for example, sewage, hazardous chemicals, radioactive waste.

Cross-Connection means a physical connection between a potable water plumbing system and any domestic, industrial or institutional piping system containing used or non-potable water.

Cross-Connection control survey The review of the plumbing system to determine the existence of potential or actual cross-connections and to assess the degree of hazards of protected and unprotected cross-connections.

Degree of hazard The assessment or evaluation of a facilities domestic water system's cross-connections as they relate to the health hazard of the consumers of water.

Double check valve assembly (DC or DCVA) A backflow prevention consisting of two internally loaded independently operating check valves, located between two tightly closing resilient-seated shutoff valves with four properly placed resilient-seated test cocks. This assembly shall only be used to protect against a non-health hazard (i.e., a pollutant).

High health hazard (high hazard) A cross-connection or potential cross-connection involving any substance that could, if introduced into the potable water supply, cause death or illness, spread disease, or have a high probability of causing such effects. An example of substance would be any one of the National Primary Drinking Water Standards.

Inspection A visual examination of a backflow protection device or assembly, materials, workmanship or portion therefore verify installation and operational performance of the device or assembly.

Low health Hazard (low hazard) A cross-connection or potential cross-connection involving any contaminant that if introduced into the potable water system as a result of a backflow situation may cause a cosmetic effects (such as skin or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, or color) in drinking water.

Potable Water Water that is safe for human consumption as described by the public health authority having jurisdiction.

Pollutant is any substance that affects the color or odor of the water, but does not pose a health hazard; for example, food coloring.

Potable (Domestic) Water is simply water that is safe to drink. Potable water is free from pollutants and contaminants and is provided to a location by a water purveyor (i.e. Las Vegas Valley Water District) or a private well.

Potable (Domestic) Water Line is the plumbing system that carries potable water throughout a facility on the downstream side of the water meter, up until the point of a physical cross-connection.

Public water system A system for the provision to the public of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances, if such system has at least fifteen service connections or regularly serves at least twenty-five individuals for at least 60 days per year.

Reduced-pressure principle backflow-prevention assembly (RP) A backflow prevention device assembly consisting of a mechanical, independently acting, hydraulically dependent relief valve, located between two independently operating, internally loaded check valves that are located between two tightly closing resilient-seated shutoff valve with four properly placed resilient-seated test cocks. This assembly shall be tested at least annually and is suitable for direct high hazard cross-connections.

Service Connection The connection between the public water system distribution system main and a user's domestic water system.

Test Form a document that records test results of the backflow device, normally generated in three copies, one for each customer, testing company, and health district.