



III. Backflow and Cross Connection Control Requirements

This section covers policies, procedures, minimum requirements, and information that pertain to Water Cross Connection Enabling Authority

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A. Backflow and Cross Connection Control Requirements

The purpose of this policy is to protect the health of the people served by EWEB water system by preventing contaminants from flowing backwards into the water supply. To accomplish this, EWEB, in accordance with Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 333-061-0070, undertakes cross connection control programs to protect the public water systems from pollution and contamination.

Actual or potential cross connections are prohibited. Actual Cross Connection is any connection between the potable water supply and any substance not considered part of the potable water supply. Potential Cross Connection is any connection that would most likely occur but may not be taking place at the time of inspection. If a potential exists for a cross connection, the water system must be protected by an appropriate Backflow device or assembly. EWEB is the sole determiner of the appropriate equipment to protect the water system.

Any high hazards, as specified in the OARs High Hazard Table, will be given the highest priority and protected with an approved air gap or reduced pressure backflow assembly.

Water user or premises owner who obtains water from EWEB must notify EWEB if adding any chemicals or substance to the water. The water user or premises owner must ensure no cross connections exist between the POD (Point of Delivery) from the public water system and the approved Backflow prevention assemblies.

Failure to meet these requirements shall result in discontinuation of Water Service in accordance with EWEB’s Water Customer Service Policy Section 3.2 Disconnection/Reconnection at EWEB’s Discretion.



B. Customer Installation Responsibility

The Customer is required to install suitable protective or control devices whenever EWEB deems such installation necessary to protect EWEB's property, system, or that of its other customers. This includes appropriate Backflow prevention equipment, as required for the protection of water quality and public health.

All Backflow preventers shall be installed in a manner consistent with approved EWEB design standards and OAR 333-061-0071. For new services, the customer will be required to acknowledge the Backflow Prevention Requirements or Plans Letter agreement. The owner must assume responsibility for installation, testing, maintenance, and repair of the required, approved, installed, Backflow prevention assembly to protect against the hazard.

EWEB reserves the right to refuse or discontinue service to any Customer whose water use or equipment presents a risk of contamination to the public water supply. Failure to comply with EWEB's Backflow installation standards shall result in discontinuation of Water Service.

C. Customers Plumbing

If, within the customer's plumbing system, there is the potential for the introduction into EWEB's water system of any substance; the Customer shall protect EWEB's system from Backflow in accordance with provisions set forth in OAR 333-061-0070.

Backflow prevention assemblies shall be required on all service connections where:

- Premises listed or defined in Table 42 (Premises Requiring Isolation) of OAR 333-061-0070;
- Unique conditions exist, but not limited to, extreme terrain or pipe elevation changes, Services larger than 1", Structures greater than three stories in height;
- EWEB may determine on a case-by-case basis through an individual evaluation process that a water user has a cross connection not listed or defined in Table 42. In these cases, the cross connection must be removed or protected commensurate to the degree of hazard.

Following are a few, but not all, common water uses that can create cross connection hazards. Hoses, wells, underground irrigation systems, water features, pools and spas, heating, cooling and fire protection systems, water cooled equipment, medical facilities, laboratories. This list is not all inclusive.



D. Testing & Maintenance

Testing and maintenance of Backflow preventers to ensure protection of EWEB's system shall be the owners' responsibility. Backflow prevention assemblies must be tested by authority-certified Backflow assembly testers as prescribed by OAR 333-061-0070. Testing procedures must be performed in accordance with OAR 333-061-0070. The tester must submit testing results to EWEB within 10 working days in a manner and form acceptable to EWEB. If EWEB does not receive passing test results in accordance with these requirements, EWEB may send a contracted tester to complete the required testing and place all charges incurred for the required testing on your utility bill. Failure to provide access or comply with EWEB's Backflow testing requirements shall result in discontinuation of Water Service.

Commercial customers may elect to have EWEB facilitate their testing. Registration and more information about this program can be found at eweb.org/backflow.

Approved air gaps, approved devices, or approved Backflow prevention assemblies, found not to be functioning properly must be repaired, replaced, or re-plumbed by the water user or premises owner. If an approved backflow prevention assembly fails its test, the assembly must be repaired or replaced and then tested with a passing test within 10 working days. Failure to properly maintain Backflow devices shall result in discontinuation of Water Service.

E. Inspection and Enforcement Program

EWEB shall maintain an inspection and enforcement program to ensure that Backflow prevention exists between the customer's system and EWEB's system as required by OAR 333-061-0070.

The utility shall conduct property surveys to seek out unprotected or potential cross connections. If a cross connection is found and the customer fails to remove or eliminate this existing unprotected or potential cross connection, the water service will be disconnected. EWEB must perform inspections of approved air gaps and approved backflow preventers protecting the public water system anytime a device is new, removed, relocated, repaired, replaced or if a Backflow incident has occurred. When access is denied for surveys or inspection, EWEB may require premise isolation at the point of connection or discontinuation of Water Service.

Enforcement testing: Failure to comply with annual testing may result in EWEB directed testing and associated charges on your utility bill.

F. Water Service Discontinuation

EWEB shall discontinue water service to premises for:

- Failure to remove or eliminate an existing unprotected or potential cross connection;
- Failure to install a required approved Backflow prevention assembly;
- Failure to maintain an approved Backflow prevention assembly; or
- Failure to conduct the required testing of an approved Backflow prevention assembly;
- Failure to provide access to any Backflow assembly or property so that a cross connection inspection may be conducted.