

Can I install any BPA I choose?

Because the District conducts internal repairs for BPAs—and the fact that there are many different BPAs on the market today—only District-approved BPAs are allowed for use as system protection. By requiring this, the District is able to maintain an inventory of specific parts and avoid the need for special ordering parts. The District's goal is to minimize any delay in needed repairs for BPAs.

Who do I call if I'm having trouble with my BPA?

Please call the District first for any problems related to your backflow assembly. Our service includes troubleshooting and making internal repairs when needed.

Can freezing temperatures harm my BPA?

Yes. BPAs are required to be installed above ground, which will expose the BPA and other piping to the elements. The District recommends the use of freeze protection for all above ground pipes and BPAs. However, the use of freeze protection must not prevent access for annual testing and maintenance by District staff.

How do I protect my BPA from theft or vandalism?

Unfortunately, BPAs can be subject to theft or vandalism. If you intend to secure your BPA with a locking enclosure or other such device, please contact the District to inquire about access requirements for testing and maintenance. Please do not apply tar or other unapproved coatings to BPAs as this could limit access, prevent required annual testing, and possibly pose a contaminant risk.

I have a well on my property. Am I required to install a BPA?

State law and District regulations require the installation of a BPA when a well and District water service exist on the same parcel whether or not the two are connected. However, if a well is inactive, as defined by District administrative regulations, a BPA will not be required as long as the well remains inactive.

My building has internal BPAs: Do I still need one at my water meter?

Yes. Internal BPAs are designed to isolate potential contamination sources within the building and not to protect the public water supply. Even though plumbing code provisions may be rigidly enforced on new installations, "on-site" modifications of private plumbing are commonly observed. Therefore, the only practical way to assure protection of the public water supply is to install a BPA at the point of service connection (water meter). Accordingly, regardless of what happens inside the customer's property, the public water supply is protected.

Is this program required by law?

Yes. Congress established the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) in 1974 to protect human health from contaminants in drinking water and to prevent contamination of existing groundwater supplies. This act and its amendments (1986 and 1996) require many actions to protect drinking water and its sources. California Code of Regulations Title 17 section 7584 requires water suppliers to protect the public water supply from contamination by implementation of a cross-connection control program.

Why is annual BPA testing required? Who performs the annual test?

BPAs, like any mechanical device, are subject to failure. Annual testing is required by the state to ensure that the devices are operating as designed. Only certified District staff or its authorized representatives may conduct annual BPA testing.

EID Mission Statement

We are a public agency dedicated to providing high quality water, wastewater treatment, recycled water, hydropower, and recreation services in an environmentally and fiscally responsible manner.

Cross- Connection Control and Backflow Prevention Program



Tel. 530-295-6868
www.eid.org

El Dorado Irrigation District's Cross-Connection Control and Prevention of Backflow Program

EID proudly serves drinking water that meets or exceeds the requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Public Health to nearly 100,000 residents in the El Dorado County area. Before the water is delivered to your home or business, it has gone through careful treatment and numerous tests to ensure its quality. After treatment, the water is delivered to the distribution system, which then carries it to customers. Once in the distribution system, the quality of the water must be maintained up to the customer's water meter. A necessary component for maintaining water quality in the distribution system is to prevent pollutants and contaminants that may exist on a customer's premises from entering the public drinking water system through a cross-connection. A cross-connection is any actual or potential connection between the District's drinking water system and any liquid, water of unknown or questionable quality, solid, or gas that could pollute or contaminate the public water supply through backflow.

To prevent cross-connections and comply with federal and state regulations the District has developed and implemented a Cross-Connection Control and Prevention of Backflow Program. The program is designed to identify actual and potential drinking water hazards that may exist on the customer's premises through comprehensive onsite surveys conducted by certified District staff.

Drinking water systems depend on pressure to keep water flowing in the proper direction, from the meter to the customer. Water flow can change direction without warning to the customer and even the water supplier. For additional information on the two causes of changes in water flow direction— back-pressure and back-siphonage— see adjacent Frequently Ask Questions.

If a cross-connection hazard exists and a backflow condition occurs, unhealthy pollutants or contaminants could be siphoned or pumped into the public drinking water system.

Upon identification of a hazard, the District requires the installation of a District approved Backflow Prevention Assembly (BPA) at the water meter. A BPA is a device that, when installed and maintained properly, prevents water from the customer's private system from entering the public water system when backflow conditions occur. Once a BPA is installed and approved it must be tested annually to ensure proper operation as required by state regulations.



The District conducts all state-required initial testing, annual testing, and retesting of the backflow prevention assemblies. We also maintain and replace all internal components to ensure each BPA meets annual testing requirements. Because EID provides these services, customers do not have to hire their own certified tester to test and maintain their own BPA. These services are provided through a fee based on the size of the BPA and is included on the bi-monthly water service bill.

In order to successfully protect the public drinking water supply, the Cross-Connection Control and Prevention of Backflow Program is a cooperative effort between the District and our customers.

**For more information, contact EID's
Cross-Connection Control Program
530-295-6868**

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a cross-connection?

A cross-connection is a point in a plumbing system where the drinking water supply is or can be connected to a non-drinking water source.

What are we protecting the public water supply from?

The District's goal is to prevent pollution and contamination from entering the public water supply by keeping water that has entered a private facility from flowing back into the public water system.

What is a backflow prevention assembly (BPA)?

A BPA is a testable, mechanical device containing one-way valves to prevent contaminated water from flowing backward.

What causes water to flow backward?

Back-siphonage and back-pressure.

What causes back-siphonage?

Back-siphonage is created when there is a sudden drop in water pressure in the public water distribution system due to line breaks, fire fighting or other high demand.

What causes back-pressure?

Heating systems, elevated tanks, and pressure producing pumping systems connected to the customer's private water system can create pressure that exceeds the public water supply pressure.

Does EID own my BPA?

No. All facilities located downstream of the water meter are owned by the customer. The District's responsibility is limited to the testing and maintenance of the BPA's internal parts only. Repairs for damage to BPAs caused by freezing, theft, vandalism, or vehicles are the responsibility of the customer.