

Frequently Asked Questions

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. BPAs are required to protect against onsite hazards from entering EID's public water system.

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

Please call EID first for any problems related to your BPA. Our service includes troubleshooting and making internal repairs when needed.

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 state and EID regulations to ensure that the devices are operating as designed. Only certified EID staff or its authorized representatives are allowed to perform annual testing.

Why is there a fee associated with my bill for my BPA?

Annual testing is required by the state and EID to ensure that the devices are operating as designed and to replace internal serviceable parts if needed. This fee is to recover costs incurred by EID to perform these services for our customers.

Can EID test my BPA outside of normal business hours?

EID staff makes every reasonable effort to avoid inconveniencing our customers. A typical BPA test requires the water service to be interrupted for 5 minutes or less. However, in the event your BPA requires repairs it could be up to 20 minutes. If requested by the customer, EID testing appointment hours are Monday through Friday between 6:30 A.M. and 3:00 P.M.



El Dorado Irrigation District
2890 Mosquito Road
Placerville, CA 95667
www.eid.org

**Cross-Connection Control
Program (530) 295-6870**

**For after hours emergencies,
call (530) 622-4513.**

EID Mission Statement

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

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and California law, it is the policy of the El Dorado Irrigation District to offer its public programs, services and meetings in a manner that is readily accessible to everyone, including individuals with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability and require information or materials in an appropriate alternative format; or if you require any other accommodation, please contact the ADA Coordinator at the number or address below at least 72 hours prior to the meeting or when you desire to receive services. Advance notification within this guideline will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility.

The District ADA Coordinator can be reached at:

Phone: (530) 642-4045;

e-mail: adacoordinator@eid.org



Backflow Prevention Assembly Testing Program Services



**Cross-Connection
Control Program**

Tel. 530-295-6870

www.eid.org

Backflow Prevention Assembly Certification and Maintenance Services

EID is committed to serving the needs of El Dorado County residents, businesses, and visitors by providing high-quality drinking water and safeguarding public health. In order to achieve this goal, EID requires backflow prevention assemblies (BPAs) to be installed on services that present a potential hazard to the public water system.

State and EID regulations require annual certification for BPAs to ensure assemblies are functioning properly. Annual certification service is provided only by certified EID personnel or their authorized representatives, which are paid for by an applicable fee on your bill based on the size of your BPA.

What our service includes:

- ◆ Initial inspection and certification of newly installed BPAs
- ◆ Required annual certification
- ◆ Properly diagnosing and troubleshooting BPA problems to ensure that only defective parts are replaced
- ◆ Cleaning, repair and/or replacement of internal serviceable parts
- ◆ Re-certification for repaired BPAs

What you should know about your BPA:

Your BPA is not EID property. Damage or theft requiring replacement or repairs not covered by EID's services is the customer's responsibility to remedy. EID will make every reasonable attempt, in accordance with our program services, to repair your BPA if it fails annual certification. However, problems arising from distortions of internal BPA dimensions caused by freeze damage, heavy use or external impact are beyond the control of EID and may require complete replacement by the customer.

Things to Consider:

Leaks: It is not uncommon to experience leaking or dripping from the bottom of your BPA. Most of these devices include a reduced pressure zone with a relief valve and vent located near the bottom of the BPA between two check valves. The relief valve allows water to drain during a backflow condition creating a physical separation between the public and private water system as an added level of protection. If water is observed leaking from the relief valve area please contact EID. There is no additional charge for EID staff to diagnose the cause of the leak.

Cold weather: One of the most common causes of BPA damage is freezing temperatures. EID does not require freeze protection for your BPA, but strongly recommends it to protect your investment. Products specifically designed to protect BPAs are commercially available.

Accessibility: Your BPA should be accessible to minimize delays in performing certification and maintenance. EID testing staff must be provided unimpeded access to any locked BPA.

Replacing your BPA: If your BPA has been damaged or stolen and requires replacement, please visit our website www.eid.org to view EID's current BPA specifications. Select the "Regulatory" tab then choose the "Cross-Connection Control" option and scroll down to "Documents." There you can choose the document with a list of EID-approved BPAs and installation instructions. When you have completed installation, call EID for an inspection and initial certification.

If you experience trouble or if you have questions related to your BPA please contact EID's environmental compliance office at (530) 295-6870.

Frequently Asked Questions, continued

Can I install any BPA I choose?

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

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 EID 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.

How does EID get access to my BPA if I have a cover or locked enclosure?

If your BPA is locked, EID will contact you for access to complete the test. EID recommends the use of a combination lock for your enclosure to allow EID access and avoid unnecessary return visits. Your combination would be entered in our database only accessible by EID personnel.

Can freezing temperatures harm my BPA?

Yes. Most BPAs are required to be installed above ground, which will expose the BPA and other piping to the elements. EID 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 EID staff.