

2.3.1. Connections- Backflow Prevention

2.3.1.1.General: The Utility requires installation of containment devices in addition to the isolation devices required by other codes, rules and regulations at all premises determined by the Utility to be a hazard. Degrees of high, moderate, or low hazard shall be determined using criteria contained in the Clean Water Act.

The Utility requires testing of all testable backflow prevention assemblies. Furthermore, the Utility requires registration of all backflow prevention assembly technicians. Failure to submit applicable information about potential backflow hazards or otherwise mitigate backflow risks through non-compliance of this section may result in disconnection of standard service until such time as the Utility determines a hazard has been mitigated. In the event of a backflow incident, the customer shall immediately notify the Utility and take steps to confine the contamination or pollution.

2.3.1.2.Construction Methods and Device Materials: The Utility shall maintain procedures that further specify acceptable materials and construction standards, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

2.3.1.2.1. The Utility shall determine the type of backflow prevention assembly required for containment based on the degree of hazard. The determination of the degree of hazard by the Utility shall be based on information provided by a customer and inspection by the Utility. Filing of plans and specifications to the Utility does not relieve the customer or property owner of the responsibility to file information with another entity with regulatory authority.

2.3.1.2.2. The installation of appropriate backflow prevention assemblies for containment shall be prior to the commencement of standard water service.

2.3.1.2.3. All backflow prevention assemblies shall be protected from freezing. Devices used for seasonal services may be removed in lieu of being protected from freezing.

2.3.1.2.4. Only registered technicians shall perform installation, repairs, and maintenance to backflow prevention assemblies. The technician shall use only original manufactured parts. No repair or maintenance shall change the design, material, or operating characteristics of any assembly. Repairs shall be reported to the Utility within fifteen (15) days of the repair, complete with a list of materials and replacement parts used.

2.3.1.3. Assembly Testing: Only a registered backflow prevention assembly technician shall perform testing of all backflow prevention assemblies.

2.3.1.3.1. The Utility shall advise customers with registered backflow prevention assemblies of the need to comply with annual testing requirements:

- 2.3.1.3.1.1. Initial notice delivered by regular mail
 - 2.3.1.3.1.2. Reminder notice by regular mail one month or more from that of the initial notice
 - 2.3.1.3.1.3. Final notice delivered to the premise by water department personnel one month or more from that of the reminder notice; Final notice shall contain a notice of non-compliance and advising the commencement of disconnection proceedings under applicable sections of this Service Plan.
 - 2.3.1.3.2. Testing of all assemblies shall be done upon installation and at least annually thereafter.
 - 2.3.1.3.3. Any assemblies not in operation or removed from service for more than 3 months shall be retested prior to being placed into service.
 - 2.3.1.3.4. Any assemblies failing a periodic test shall be repaired or replaced. Re-testing is required prior to placing the assembly into service.
 - 2.3.1.3.5. All testing results are required to be submitted to the Utility within fifteen (15) days of the test. Test results shall also be provided to the customer by the technician.
 - 2.3.1.3.6. The cost of all tests shall be the responsibility of the customer, except those ordered by the Utility it deems necessary to verify test procedures and results.
 - 2.3.1.3.7. Technicians are required to notify the fire marshal's office in the event fire services are discontinued for more than the amount of time to test an assembly.
- 2.3.1.4. Registration of Technicians: The Utility may register and approve training programs for backflow prevention assembly technicians. Those technicians registered by the State of Iowa shall include their registration number on all correspondence and forms required by the Utility. The registration of a technician may be revoked or suspended for a period of up to two (2) years for noncompliance with this Service Plan. Non-compliance may include, but is not limited to:
- 2.3.1.4.1. Improper testing or repair of backflow prevention assemblies
 - 2.3.1.4.2. Improper reporting of the results of testing or repairs made to backflow prevention assemblies
 - 2.3.1.4.3. Failure to meet registration requirements
 - 2.3.1.4.4. Unethical practices related to compliance with this Service Plan
- 2.3.1.5. Non-compliance: Reasons that may lead to disconnection of standard water service under Sections 3.5 and 3.6 of this Service Plan for non-compliance, depending on the severity determined by the Utility, with this section includes, but is not limited to:
- 2.3.1.5.1. Refusal to allow the Utility to inspect for cross connections

2.3.1.5.2. Failure to install, removal of, or bypassing of a required backflow prevention assembly

2.3.1.5.3. Failure to test or repair a required backflow prevention assembly and file test results with the Utility

2.3.1.6. The Utility may impose administrative charges for monitoring these requirements, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

The Utility shall maintain records of cross connection hazard surveys, and the installation, testing, and repair of all backflow prevention assemblies for containment purposes.