

## Water

### Cross Connection Control and Backflow Prevention

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The Cross Connection Control/Backflow Prevention program is a state mandated program designed to protect the public's drinking water from contamination by identifying and eliminating cross connections.

#### Law

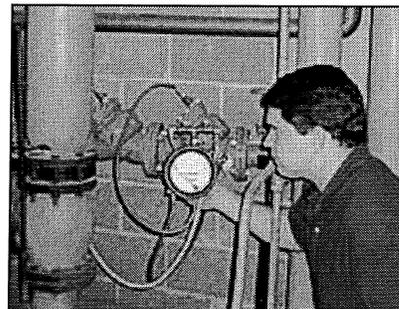
[R.44-55-20 \(d\) and 44-55-40 \(d\) State Safe Drinking Water Act](#)

#### Regulation

[Cross Connection Control](#)

[Entire State Primary Drinking Water Regulations](#) - See Section R.61-58.7 (F)

[Lawn irrigation sprinkler policy letter](#)



#### Program

Every public water system must initiate and maintain a viable cross connection control program. This is accomplished by surveying the distribution system for unprotected cross connections. Once identified, these connections can be eliminated through the proper use of backflow prevention assemblies. The public water system must maintain accurate records pertaining to the location of existing backflow prevention assemblies, type and size of each assembly and annual testing results (see [Backflow Device Test Report Form](#)). All testing must be done by a state certified backflow prevention tester. Additionally, backflow prevention assemblies used in South Carolina must be on SC DHEC's ([List of Approved Backflow Preventive Devices for South Carolina](#)).

#### Certification

The backflow prevention certification workshop is a three day course that instructs students in how backflow can occur and how cross connections can be addressed and/or eliminated. The cost of this training is \$225.00 per person, limited to 30 people per class. During the course, State regulations are reviewed and testing procedures are demonstrated. Students participating in the workshop will get hands on experience in backflow prevention. A written exam and a wet lab exam must be passed in order to achieve certification, which is valid for three years.

The backflow prevention certification workshop is conducted in five cities: Charleston, Myrtle Beach, Columbia, Spartanburg and Clemson. There are no prerequisites or qualifications needed to attend this workshop.

#### Recertification

A certified backflow prevention tester's license will expire every three years. In order to become recertified, the tester will be required to take a 25 question written exam and test a double check valve assembly, pressure vacuum breaker, and a reduced pressure principle assembly in the wet lab. The tester's differential gauge must be accurate to within 2% of full gauge scale or +/- 0.3 psi differential.

The two ways to complete the requirements for recertification are listed below. Regardless of which recertification process you choose, be sure to notify [the backflow program contact](#) each time you apply.

1. One way is to [request a copy of the recertification study guide](#), or simply print out a study guide by clicking on the guide that applies to you. Then register with one of the [recertification labs](#). The fee for recertification testing is \$50.00 per person. ([3 valve gauge study guide](#)) ([5 valve gauge study guide](#))
2. The second way to become recertified is to go back through the three day state sponsored backflow prevention certification workshop described under "[Certification](#)" at the cost of \$225.00 per person.

#### Upcoming Workshops