

West Virginia American Water – Cross Connection Control Program

- **West Virginia American Water’s Cross Connection Control Program is designed for containment protection of the distribution system.** Containment devices are required on the main domestic, fire, or irrigation line(s), as close to the water meter (*if applicable*) as possible, but before any branch off of the water occurs.
- West Virginia American Water’s Cross Connection Program was established and implemented in 2008 based on guidance by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, and following the guidelines as set under Title 64 Legislative Rule, Series 15, Cross Connection Control and Backflow Prevention.
- **West Virginia American Water requires all non residential customers to have a type of backflow preventer installed based on the degree of hazard determined.** This practice is used following guidelines as set under §64-15-5.2.1 and §64-15-6.5.
- Each premise will be issued a paper survey to be filled out by the water customer. Once the responses have been received, a review will begin to determine type of device that will be required to be installed at that location.
- The type of assembly required is based on the degree of hazard as determined by West Virginia American Water. The evaluation of the degree of hazard will take into account the potential for backflow to occur and the toxicity of the substances that could backflow. Given the ability of the customer to change their plumbing system or to add devices to their system that would create a potential hazard at any given time without notice to the water service provider, the provider must assume that a potential hazard exists.
- **Degree of Hazard** is broken down into three categories as defined in §64-15-6.1
 - **Severe Health Hazard** or **Severe High Hazard** would require a customer to have an Approved **Air Gap** as the method of backflow prevention. Severe health hazard is any health hazard that could reasonably be expected to result in significant morbidity or death. This could be in the form of a contaminant that creates an acute or chronic illness that could result in death.
 - **Health Hazard** or **High Hazard** would require a customer to have an approved **Reduced Pressure Assembly** installed (ASS1013 approved assembly). Health Hazard means any condition, device, or practice in a water supply system or its operations that creates, or may create, a danger to the health and well being of the water consumer. This could be in the form of a contaminant that will make you ill or cause physical discomfort. Fire services are recommended to install RPDA (ASSE 1047).
 - **Non Health Hazard** or **Low Hazard** would require a customer to have an approved **Double Check Valve Assembly** (ASSE1015 approved assembly). Non Health Hazard means any condition, device, or practice that could degrade the water quality or adversely affect the public water system and poses no threat to the health of the water

customer. This could be in the form of a pollutant that affects the color, odor, or taste of the water. Fire services are recommended to install DCDA (ASSE 1048).

- If the customer does not respond to any surveys mailed to them by West Virginia American Water, it will be assumed they would be a Health Hazard and would be required to install a Reduced Pressure Assembly.
- Once the hazard level has been determined by the Cross Connection Department, an install letter is issued informing the customer that a backflow device is required and describing what type would need to be installed. If the customer disputes the type of requirement issued, they can provide document detail of their plumbing systems as defined under §64-15-8.1 and §64-15-8.3.
- If a customer does not have the documentation as asked for in 8.1 or 8.3, West Virginia American Water will accept the inspection of a certified tester. So, if their hazard level was determined to be different by the certified tester than the requirement issued, a modification can be made at the request of the tester.
- The state certified tester shall provide records of all inspections and tests to West Virginia American Water's within 15 days of the inspection or test. West Virginia American Water requires all state certified testers to have a valid BPAIT license as well as having their test equipment calibrated and certificates on file in the Cross Connections Department. Gauges are required to be calibrated yearly and new certificates mailed to the Cross Connections Department to be placed in their tester files.