

BRWC Backflow Prevention Program

Policies and Procedures for Plumbers

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1) Summary

The following policies and procedures govern the installation and testing of backflow preventers (BFP) within the Baton Rouge Water Company (BRWC) service areas (including Parish Water Company and Ascension Water Company). It is the responsibility of each plumber to become familiar with the policies and procedures established by BRWC. Failure to abide by the regulations set forth herein shall be cause for non-acceptance of installed and tested BFPs within BRWC.

2) Definitions

- a) Plumbers- (LAC 51:XII.346.A) includes State Plumbing Board (SPBLA) licensed plumbers with a Water Supply Protection Specialist endorsement (WSPS) to install/repair/maintain and test BFPs.
- b) Testers- (LAC 51:XII.346.B) includes plumbers as defined above, and other individuals holding a testing certificate from a nationally recognized backflow certification organization approved by the state health officer.
- c) Devices
 - i) RPZ – Reduced Pressure Zone
 - ii) DCVA – Double Check Valve Assembly
 - iii) DDCA – Double Detector Valve Assembly
 - iv) PVB – Pressure Vacuum Breaker

3) Installations

- a) New
 - i) Plumbers must contact and coordinate with BRWC prior to the installation of any BFPs at 225-952-7617 or backflow@brwater.com.
 - ii) All installations shall be installed above ground with rigid piping.
 - iii) BFP installations are to be made as close to the public water supply (PWS) as possible and before any branches in the service line.
 - iv) In the rare case that there is no location near the PWS, coordinate with BRWC to determine closest available location to be installed.

- v) Upon completion of the installation, the plumber must contact BRWC for installation inspection and approval.

b) Retrofits

- i) All services (fire, domestic, irrigation)
 - (1) Plumbers must contact and coordinate with BRWC prior to the removal or installation of any BFPs at 225-952-7617 or backflow@brwater.com.
 - (2) All installations shall be installed above ground with rigid piping.
 - (3) BFP installations are to be made as close to the PWS as possible and before any branches in the service line.
 - (4) In the rare case that there is no location near the PWS, coordinate with BRWC to determine closest available location to be installed.
 - (5) Upon completion of the installation, the plumber must contact BRWC for installation inspection and approval.
- ii) Fire Service Lines
 - (1) Check for double check devices on riser pipes in building; if the riser is fitted with a double check backflow preventer that passes testing, the customer will be considered in compliance.
 - (2) Plumbers will need a Louisiana Office of the State Fire Marshal (LASFM) approval before making any modifications to fire sprinkler services per NFPA 13 (NFPA 13:30.1.4 – 2022 ed).
 - (a) Coordinate with a licensed sprinkler contractor.
 - (b) Hydraulic calculations may be required to demonstrate that the installation of the BFP will not result in additional modifications to the sprinkler system.
 - (3) Thermal protection is required for backflow devices on fire service lines per LASFM.
 - (4) All fire service lines to be fitted with a DDCA with bypass and meter.
 - (5) All DDCA's to be sized to match the service line size (e.g., an 8" DDCA shall be installed on an 8" fire service line).
- iii) In Ground Checks

- (1) All In Ground Checks – All backflow preventers shall be installed above ground. In ground devices are not in compliance per 2021 IPC 608.15.
- (2) Single Check - single check valves with a detector meter were installed underground on some fire service lines to detect leaks/usage downstream of the check valve; these are not compliant devices and need to be removed before installing an above ground DDCA. Plumber must contact BRWC to coordinate the recovery of the meter.
- (3) Double Check - double check valves with a detector meter were installed underground (some in vaults) on some fire service lines to detect leaks/usage downstream of the check valve. If the double check device is in working/testable condition, the device can be reused and installed above ground. If the in ground device is not equipped with a bypass with equivalent backflow and a detector meter, then one will need to be installed and tested and have a passing result along with the now above ground device to be considered compliant. If the in ground device is not testable or need extensive reworking, then a new DDCA will need to be installed. Plumber must contact BRWC to coordinate the recovery of the meter.
- (4) Combination Service - a combination service meter (no longer allowed) was installed on some combined fire/domestic service lines with a single check valve for the fire service and a smaller bypass with meter (usually 2") for the domestic service; this does not include combined services served by a compound meter or fire flow meter. Plumbers have two (2) options on how to address combined services with the customer:
 - (a) Preferred - split the services by installing a new service line to the building and separating the fire and domestic at the building ensuring no cross connections between the services; then installing a DDCA on the fire service and proper BFP on the domestic service (per hazard level) if required.
 - (i) Plumber must inform customer to contact BRWC – New Business Department (225-213-0304) to set up new fire account and coordinate tap for separate domestic service.

(b) Allowed - remove existing combination meter (check valve with bypass and meter) and install proper BFP (per hazard level) behind new Octave meter (installed by BRWC).

(i) Plumber must inform customer that this option is not preferred from a code and water quality standpoint, as well as the customer's account will now be charged based on the Octave meter size and will result in a significant increase in minimum monthly cost (approximately a 600% - 1800% increase).

(ii) Have customer contact BRWC – New Business Department (225-231-0304) to coordinate new service contract.

iv) Domestic

(1) Plumbers must contact and coordinate with BRWC prior to the removal or installation of any BFPs at 225-952-7617 or backflow@brwater.com.

(2) Plumbers shall determine which BFP to install based on evaluation of the customer's hazard level (i.e., high – RPZ; low – DCVA)

(3) All installations shall be installed above ground with rigid piping.

(4) BFP installations are to be made as close to the PWS as possible and before any branches in the service line.

(5) In the rare case that there is no location near the PWS, coordinate with BRWC to determine closest available location to be installed.

(6) Upon completion of the installation, the plumber must contact BRWC for installation inspection and approval.

4) Testing

Upon completion of the installation, the plumber/tester shall test the device (including the bypass on DDCAs on fire service lines).

5) Reporting

a) Test reports must be submitted by the plumber / tester to BRWC (backflow@brwater.com) and a copy of the report provided to the customer for their records.

b) Reports shall include the meter number and customer account number.

- c) Reports are to be in PDF format; the file name shall utilize the following naming convention: "Service address_Xin Service" (e.g., 123 Main St_8in Fire; 567 Town Ln_2in Domestic)
- d) Tests are to be submitted annually and immediately after repairs or relocations.
- e) BRWC will maintain test reports for a minimum of five (5) years.