



PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

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April 6, 2026

Subject: Reminder – Annual Testing of All Internal Backflow Prevention Assemblies

Dear Facility Owner/Operator,

We hope you are doing well. This is a friendly reminder that **all** backflow prevention assemblies located within your facility must be tested at least once per year by a certified backflow assembly tester, registered with the OC Health Care Agency-Environmental Health (HCA-EH), as required by Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) 603.4.2:

- The **property owner or responsible person** must ensure each backflow prevention assembly is tested.
- Every backflow prevention assembly must be tested at installation, after repair or relocation, and **at least once every year** thereafter.

Under the 2024 Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook (CCCPH), Public Water Systems (PWS) are responsible for protecting their potable water system only up to the first backflow prevention assembly located just after the meter. They are not responsible for internal backflow assemblies or preventing cross-connections inside a customer's property or building. Property owners must maintain and test all internal backflow prevention assemblies every year, as required by the California Plumbing Code. Because of this, most backflow assembly testing reminders from your PWS typically apply only to the first backflow prevention assembly after the meter. **All internal backflow prevention assemblies remain the responsibility of the property owner to ensure that the devices are correctly maintained and tested at least once per year.**

What This Means for You

- Public Water Systems (PWS) are not required to send reminder notices for **internal backflow prevention assemblies**.
- HCA-EH will not mail out reminder notices or personalized forms for **internal backflow prevention assemblies**.
- As the property owner, you are responsible for ensuring all internal backflow prevention assemblies are tested every year.
- Please work with a certified backflow assembly tester, who is registered with HCA-EH to maintain compliance and protect your facility's potable water system.





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- An HCA-EH Backflow Prevention Assembly Test and Maintenance Report form is available for download on our [website](https://ohealthinfo.com/services-programs/environmental-health/land-and-water/cross-connection) (<https://ohealthinfo.com/services-programs/environmental-health/land-and-water/cross-connection>).
- Completed test reports must be emailed to HCA-EH at ocbackflowtests@ochca.com.
- Failure to ensure that all internal backflow prevention assemblies are tested annually may result in a **significant public health risk due to potential cross contamination of your facility's potable water system** and **violations of the California Plumbing Code and CCCPH requirements**, which may require corrective action.

Thank you for your cooperation in maintaining a safe and compliant water system. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us at ocbackflowtests@ochca.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Hisham'.

Hisham Elmishad
Supervising Environmental Health Specialist
Division of Environmental Health
Orange County Health Care Agency

