



Backflow Protection Requirements for Customers who use Austin Water in Conjunction with an Auxiliary Water Source

Instructions: The table below describes the minimum approved backflow protection required at sites using auxiliary water. These requirements apply to all Austin Water customers. Note that backflow preventers approved for higher levels of protection may be used in place of the minimum required backflow preventer described below:

AG = Air Gap. Approved for all hazards, but its use is not always practical. AGs are the best, or highest, level of backflow protection.

RP = Reduced Pressure Zone Backflow Prevention Assembly (also known as RPZ). Approved for all hazards where an air gap would be impractical (exception: sewer). An RP is the best level of approved protection after the air gap.

DC = Double Check Backflow Prevention Assembly (also known as DCV or DCVA). These assemblies are approved for low hazards only. A DC provides the lowest level of approved protection.

List of Pressurized Auxiliary Water Sources and Uses (1)	Containment Backflow Protection Required At			Isolation Backflow Protection Required at Point of Supply	
	Domestic Water Meter (2), (3)	Irrigation Water Meter (3)	City Service to Private Fire Mains (4), (5), (6)	Where Austin is used as Back-up to Auxiliary Water Source	
Lake/River Water	RP	RP	RP	RP	
Well Water	RP	RP	RP	RP	
Rainwater Harvesting	RP	RP	RP	RP	
Reclaim Water	used on property	RP	RP	DC	AG
	used in building	RP	RP	RP	AG
Gray Water, Re-Irrigation, Disposal	RP	RP	RP	AG	
Other Water Supply (7)	RP	RP	RP	AG	

Table Notes

- (1) All auxiliary water use sites are required to have Customer Service Inspection performed in addition to the annual operational test of the backflow assemblies.
- (2) Backflow prevention assemblies installed at potable water meters require attention to thermal expansion.
- (3) Backflow prevention assemblies installed at potable and irrigation water meters in conjunction with an auxiliary water source are required to have an annual backflow assembly operational test.
- (4) New backflow prevention assemblies installed in existing fire systems may result in the need to re-calculate fire system design specifications due to backflow preventer pressure losses.
- (5) Backflow prevention assemblies installed in un-metered fire systems are required to be detector assemblies.
- (6) DCs installed on fire systems at reclaimed water use sites are required to have a semiannual operational test
- (7) Other includes any and all other defined auxiliary waters not listed in this chart and/or any combination of 2 or more auxiliary waters.