

PMWC Backflow Policy and Procedure

I. Purpose

Pursuant to ORS [333-061-0070](#), Pete's Mountain Water Company (PMWC) requires that all connections to our water supply that may backflow into our system must be protected by a backflow prevention assembly (BFA), also known or implemented as a double check valve (DCVA), Pressure Vacuum Breaker Assembly (PVBA), Reduced Pressure Backflow Assembly (RPBA), or Reduced Pressure Zone Device (RPZD).

Examples of a water-carrying system that might introduce backflow are:

- irrigation system
- pool
- water feature
- private well
- floor radiant heating
- fire suppression sprinkler system
- soda fountain machine
- combination boiler
- geothermal heating & cooling system
- hydronic heating system
- cooling tower
- that have access to rivers, lakes, ponds and/or other water sources that can be connected to
- water storage tanks greater than 50 gallons
- rainwater harvesting (excluding those that simply capture rainwater in containers of less than 50 gallons and gravity-feed to landscape)
- stormwater or groundwater recovery and reuse systems
- that use or reuse treated wastewater (grey and/or black water) on site.

Some of those systems (particularly pools, floor radiant heating, and fire suppression sprinkler systems) carry chemicals, and therefore are classified as "high hazard". State regulations (<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/DRINKINGWATER/RULES/Documents/61-0070.pdf>)

(table 42) require that all Members who have a high hazard backflow potential are required to have either an air gap or an RPBA installed directly after the water meter.

We could require a Premise BFA (one immediately downstream from the Member's meter) for all Members, even if they don't have a high hazard, but we don't currently require such. In the past, On-Premise BFAs (ones close to high hazard equipment) were grandfathered in and the prior owners of the system allowed On-Premise BFAs for such usage. This will likely change in the future such that a Premise RPBA will be required. The Board will consider this policy change and will inform the Members of any such policy as soon as it is decided.

II. Responsibilities

As with all water-bearing equipment on the Member's side of the meter, the Member is responsible for all installation, maintenance, testing, and repair costs of BFAs.

Please Note: If a Member refuses to install, test, and/or maintain a State- or Company-required backflow assembly, their water service may be terminated without further notice.

PMWC require that all Members submit a list of their BFA(s) to the Secretary if PMWC don't already have that information.

Those members who have no requirement for a BFA and are thus exempt from backflow assembly testing because they have none of the systems listed above must complete and return a Certificate of Compliance, available on our website, to Merrill Water Services, 14603 S Macksburg Rd., Molalla, Oregon 97038, or via email to backflowmerrillwater@gmail.com.

The Water Manager will keep an inventory of all BFAs, including address, make, model, type, serial number, size, usage, high hazard yes/no, testing requirement yes/no, and location on the property.

PMWC does not require that BFAs connected to equipment which has no direct or indirect connection to PMWC pipes (e.g. a private well feeding an irrigation system or barn, or one whose source water has been permanently turned off, or one BFA is directly downstream from another one with no water diversion to a use between them) be tested, but we recommend that they are tested regularly for the owner's safety. A Member may request an exemption to testing one of their BFAs if they can provide a plumber's certification that there is no interconnection to PMWC. The Board will consider such exemptions using expert input from our Water Manager and will notify the Member of the decision whether the assembly requires testing.

III. Testing Process

PMWC requires that all non-exempt BFAs are tested annually by a qualified vendor. The Member may choose to use their own State-certified testing vendor.

Every assembly must pass testing by July 1 of each calendar year. This schedule was chosen to ensure the Member's system is turned on for the season and adequate time is allowed for coordinating testing, repairs, reporting, and processing. The Water Manager will ensure that every non-exempt assembly test is done, escalating to the Board any Members who aren't compliant.

Once the Member testing deadline has passed, the Secretary will send an email to the remaining backflow owners that they missed the deadline. On or soon after July 15, the Water Manager will send to the Secretary the list of assemblies for which they have NOT received a passing test. The Secretary will send an email to those Members two weeks to clear up any results that should have been sent. The Secretary and Water Manager will keep each other updated with any changes during the grace period.

Member-arranged vendors will email test reports to the Water Manager at backflowmerrillwater@gmail.com . These reports are due by July 1 of each year. The Water Manager will keep track of backflow testing results on a spreadsheet and send a status spreadsheet to the Board once every month of June through October.

If a property changes hands, bookkeeping will notify the Secretary, who will notify the new Member of our BFA policy and status of their testing. The Secretary will also notify the Water Manager so the BFA inventory can be updated.

The Water Manager will send PMWC's Cross Connection Annual Summary Report to the State in March of each year for the prior year's results.

(Revised April 7, 2023)