



Gary E. Beck, Jr.
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**THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE
NEW YORK
BUILDING DEPARTMENT
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5-1.31 CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

a. The supplier of water shall protect the public water system by containing potential contamination within the premises of the user in the following manner:

1. by requiring an approved air gap, reduced pressure zone device, double check valve assembly or equivalent protective device consistent with the degree of hazard posed by any service connection;
2. by requiring the user of such connections to submit plans for the installation of protective devices to the supplier of water and/or the State for approval; and
3. by assuring that all protective devices be tested at least annually. Records of such tests shall be made available to and maintained by the supplier of water. Such tests shall be conducted by certified backflow prevention device testers pursuant to the following requirements:
 - i. a "general tester" certification will be issued when the applicant presents proof of satisfactory completion of a training course for testers of backflow prevention devices which has been approved by the department.
 - ii. a "limited tester" certification will be issued when the applicant presents proof of employment by a manufacturer as its agent for the servicing, maintaining and testing of backflow prevention devices.
 - iii. the department has the authority to require any person applying for certification or renewal of certification as a certified tester of backflow prevention devices to take a written, oral or practical examination, if it deems such examinations to be reasonably necessary in determining the applicant's qualifications. The results of such examinations may be the sole basis for approval or disapproval of an application for certification or renewal of certification.
 - iv. at least three months before the expiration date of a current certificate, both the general tester and a limited tester must submit proof that they are still engaged in the activity represented by their current certification.
 - v. a certification will be suspended or revoked, on due notice and an opportunity for a hearing thereon, for any of the following reasons: submission of false test reports for backflow prevention devices; proof that the person is no longer engaged in servicing, maintaining and testing backflow prevention devices; or failure to apply for recertification.

b. The supplier of water should not allow a user to establish a separate source of water. However, if the user justifies the need for a separate source of water, the supplier of water shall protect the public water system for a user who has a separate source of water and does not pose a hazard as detailed in subdivision (a) of this section in the following manner:

1. by requiring the user to regularly examine the separate water source as to its quality;
2. by approving the use of only those separate water sources which are properly developed, constructed, protected and found to meet the requirements of sections 5-1.51 and 5-1.52 of this Subpart; and
3. by filing such approvals with the State annually.

c. All users of a public water system shall prevent cross-connections between the potable water piping system and any other piping system within the premises.

d. Any installation, service, maintenance, testing, repair or modification of a backflow prevention device shall be performed in accordance with the provisions of any county, city, town or village having a plumbing code. For this section, a backflow prevention device is an approved air gap, reduced pressure zone device, double check valve assembly or equivalent protective device designed to prevent or contain potential contamination of a public water system. All individuals who perform testing of backflow prevention devices shall be certified, in accordance with subdivision 5-1.31 (a) (3) of this section.

NYCRR Effective - January 6, 1993



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BASIC TYPE OF BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICES

Please note: The following is for information purposes only and does not in anyway mean these are approved devices. Check with your local code enforcement office before selecting your backflow device.

Device Type & Use	Description	Installed	Examples	Illustration
AIR GAP High or low health hazard, back-siphon protection.	Physical separation of potable and non potable water systems - gap equal to 2 times diameter of supply line.	End of supply pipe.	Pesticide spray tanks, sinks, any non-pressurized receiver.	
HOSE CONNECTION VACUUM BREAKERS Hose outlets, non continuous pressure	Single check valve with atmospheric vacuum breaker vent. Typical size: 3/4 inch hose thread.	On hose bibbs and service sinks (no downstream valves).	Hose bibbs, service sinks, hydrants.	
ATMOSPHERIC VACUUM BREAKER High hazard, non continuous pressure or backpressure.	Single float and disk with large atmospheric port. Typical sizes: 1/2 inch to 3 inches.	6 inches above fixture rim, not subject to backpressure or continuous pressure (Back-siphon protection only.)	Pesticide spray tanks, single-zone lawn sprinklers, washing machines, dishwashers, processing tanks.	
PRESSURE-TYPE VACUUM BREAKER High hazard continuous pressure.	Spring-loaded single float with independent first check valve. Shut-off valves and test cocks. Typical sizes: 1/2 inch to 2 inches.	12 inches above overflow level of system being supplied and for continuous supply pressure. (Backsiphon protection only.)	Lawn sprinklers, livestock water systems, pesticide spray tanks and filling systems, swimming pools, laboratory equipment.	
DOUBLE-CHECK WITH INTERMEDIATE VENT Low hazard, continuous pressure, small pipes.	Two independent check valves with intermediate vacuum breaker and relief valve. Typical sizes: 1/4 inch to 3/4 inch.	Cross-connections with low health hazards, subject to back-pressure, back siphonage, backflow and continuous pressure.	Small boilers, dairy equipment, residential small cooling towers.	
DOUBLE-CHECK VALVE Low health hazard, continuous pressure.	Two independent check valves with various arrangements. Typical sizes: 3/4 inch to 10 inches.	Cross-connections with low health hazards, subject to continuous pressure.	Fire protection sprinklers, tanks and vats, cookers, supply lines.	
REDUCED PRESSURE ZONE High hazard, continuous pressure and back pressure back-siphon protection.	Two independent check valves with intermediate relief valve. Shut-off valve and test cocks. Typical sizes: 3/4 inch to 10 inches.	All cross connections subject to back pressure or back-siphon and high health hazards continuous pressure.	Main supply lines, commercial boilers, hospitals, process tanks, sewage treatment, pesticide handling.	