



May 1, 2020

TO: Our Customers
FROM: Timber Lakes Water Special Service District (the "Water Company")
RE: What the state and federal law requires us to do to prevent potential cross connection water contamination

Dear Timber Lakes Water Customer:

We apologize for not sending this document with the survey you recently received in the mail. We are writing this document to inform you of certain measures we are required to implement by federal and state law. Our purpose is to help you:

1. Understand what the government is requiring us to do, and why.
2. Become aware of how we will carry out the legal requirements.
3. Estimate how these requirements will impact you.

What are we required to do?

The Water Company is required to protect the potable water within its service area from cross-contamination and we are required to terminate water service if the water users do not install backflow prevention assemblies and have existing assemblies tested yearly. We do not want to shut off anyone's water service, however, all cross connections without adequate protection will be shut off at the meter. The Water Company will give customers plenty of warning and enough time to rectify compliance issues.

Who is requiring we do this?

1. The Federal Government in the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 (Public Law 104-182).
2. Utah Department of Environmental Quality in rule R309-105 (General Responsibilities of Public Water Systems).
3. Utah state law approved by the Utah Legislature in 2011 in Title 19 Chapter 4 Section 112 (Environmental Quality Code Safe Drinking Water Act).

Together with our Water Cross Connection Control Policy, we refer to these federal and state regulations as "the regulations" in the remainder of this document.

What do the regulations mean in plain English?

We are required to protect the potable water in our system from potential cross contamination.

What is potable water?

Water that is safe for humans to drink.

What is cross connection?

A cross connection is a link or structural arrangement where potable water in a distribution system can be exposed to unwanted contaminants. It is the point at which it is possible for a non-potable substance to come in contact with the drinking water system.

Where are the most common potential cross connections found?

Whenever a plumbing fixture is connected to a drinking water supply, a potential cross connection exists. Here are some examples of cross connections that may jeopardize water quality:

- Fire sprinkler systems (the most common potential cross connection in Timber Lakes)
- Irrigation or sprinkler systems (Timber Lakes water rights only allow culinary water use)
- Spas or hot tubs
- Solar heating systems
- Auxiliary water supplies (wells, storage tanks, cisterns)
- Wash basins
- Attachments to hoses to apply weed killer
- Hose bibs
- Ornamental fountains
- Boilers
- Radiant floor heating
- Water softeners
- Photo developing equipment

How is cross contamination risk minimized?

Many plumbing fixtures have built in backflow protection. Other fixtures require the installation of a backflow preventer or assembly.

What has the Water Company already done to minimize cross contamination?

We have installed a dual check valve in the yoke of every water meter in Timber Lakes to prevent water from your property entering our distribution system. In many instances, this dual check valve, not to be confused with the double check valve, provides adequate protection.

What are property owners required to do to minimize cross contamination?

Each property owner with an installed water meter is required by the regulations to install backflow preventers where necessary and to provide us with proof of yearly certified testing that all installed backflow assemblies are working correctly.

What is the Water Company required to do next?

We are required by the regulations to identify all potential cross contamination points that exist on all water services. We will accomplish this by sending each property owner a survey to complete and return to us. The survey results will help us document compliance with the regulations.

What questions will be asked on the survey?

We are asking for information about any potential cross contamination connections on your property.

When will the actual survey be sent?

We mailed the survey to your billing address last week.

What is the deadline for returning the completed survey?

The completed survey needs to be returned to us no later than Friday, July 31, 2020.

What happens if I do not return the completed survey?

The cross connection policy requires us to shut off the water supply to any water service that does not return a completed survey. We do not want to shut off the water to any Timber Lakes property, but we will do so in compliance with the regulations.

Do I have to return the completed survey if I do not have an installed water meter?

No. However, when you decide to build, we will require you to provide us with information detailing how any cross connections are protected by an appropriately installed and tested backflow assembly. This is to make sure the potable water supply is adequately protected.

What will I be required to do if a potential cross connection is identified on my property?

Wherever a potential cross connection is identified, the regulations require the property owner to take corrective action, which can require water users to hire a plumber to install the appropriate backflow preventer to prevent cross contamination or have existing backflow assemblies tested by a state certified backflow specialist.

What if I already have an installed backflow preventer?

Fortunately, most homes built since 2009 already have backflow preventers and only need inspection and testing. The owner will need to provide the Water Company proof that appropriate corrective measures have been taken. The regulations require that installed backflow preventers be tested every year by a certified tester to verify the assembly is still working. If the preventer is working correctly, the certified inspector will provide the owner

with written proof, which the owner needs to forward to the Water Company. If the preventer is not working properly, the certified inspector can usually repair the assembly.

How often is a certified inspection required?

The regulations require an annual certified inspection for any backflow assemblies.

Who pays for the certified inspection and any required repairs?

The property owner pays for the inspection and any required repairs.

What happens if I do not provide the Water Company with proof of installation of a required cross contamination solution or certified inspection and any required repairs?

The regulations require us to shut off the water supply to any property that does not comply with the requirements. We do not want to shut off the water to any Timber Lakes property but will do so in compliance with the regulations.

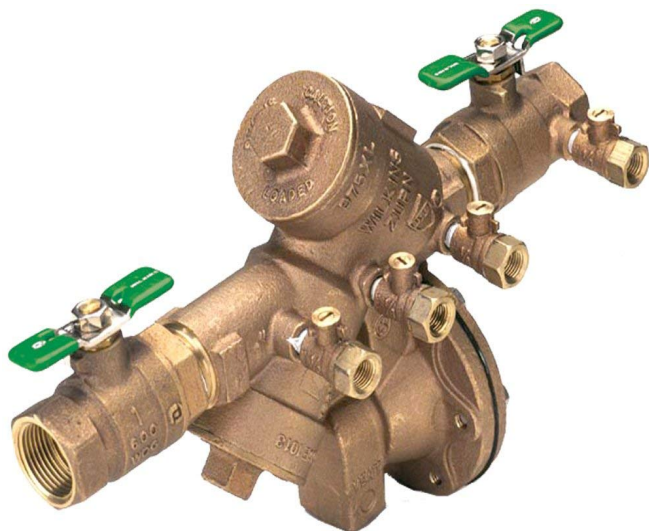
Can any plumber provide certified inspections?

No. The State has a certification program and only those who have completed the program are authorized to provide backflow assembly certification. A list of certified testers can be found online at <https://waterlink.utah.gov/deqWater/public/publicBackflowComm.html>

How much does a certified inspection cost?

Estimating inspection costs is difficult because of our mountain location. One plumbing company in Utah County provided us with an estimate of \$287 to have a certified tester come to Timber Lakes and perform the inspection and testing. They estimated \$237 each if two owners had them come up on the same run. They estimated \$187 each if three owners organized and scheduled testing on the same trip. The inspection cost does not typically include the cost of any required repairs.

What do backflow preventer assemblies look like?



The image on the preceding page is an RPZ assembly often used when health hazards are present and is testable.

The image below is a double check assembly often used in non-health applications and is testable.



The image below is a residential **dual check valve**. It is different than regular spring double check valve assemblies because it has two check valve springs **but is not testable**.



Will we really turn off the water supply to a non-complying property?

Yes. We have no other options. The regulations require us to shut off the water supply to any property for whom we do not receive the completed survey. We are also required to shut off the water supply to any property where the owner fails to provide us with a yearly copy of certified inspections, including documentation of any required repairs.

Will there be any other written notice to property owners before we proceed to comply with the regulations?

No. This and the survey are your only written notices.

Where can I read more about this?

We have a 50-question cross connection FAQ on our website at <https://timberlakeswaterssd.com/2020/01/30/all-about-backflow/>

Can I contact anyone if I have questions?

Absolutely. If you have questions, please contact our office. You are welcome to visit our office, located at

450 W 910 S
Suite 100
Heber City UT

You are welcome to call us with questions at (435) 654-0125.

Thank you.

Thank you for taking the time to read this document. We hope you now have a better understanding of what we are required to do to prevent cross contamination. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

Timber Lakes Water Special Service District