

East Garrett



Dear Water Customer

East Garrett W.S.C operates a Cross Connection Control Program to protect the integrity of the water distribution system and the health, safety and general welfare of the people who use it. The Cross Connection Control Program includes:

- Customer Service Inspection (CSI) of the customer's private plumbing to identify and prevent cross connections and potential contamination. CSI includes testing for lead to ensure the standards of Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 are met
- Required installation and testing of backflow prevention assemblies where appropriate

A cross-connection, as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency, is any "actual or potential connection between the public water supply and a source of contamination or pollution." Contaminants may enter the water system when the pressure of the pollutant source is greater than the pressure of the public water supply. The introduction of contaminants into the potable water system due to cross connection is called backflow or back-siphonage. Backflow into a potable water supply can be prevented by installing an approved backflow prevention assembly, or by maintaining a physical separation (air gap) between the water supply and a potential source of pollution. The required backflow prevention assembly is based on the existing or potential degree of hazard.

- **Backflow Prevention Assembly Testers** - Testers are certified by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and must show proof of certification and current licensing. As of October 1, 2021, all testers working in East Garrett W.S.C. are required to register with SC Tracking Solutions
- **Test Gauges** - Gauges are tested for accuracy annually in accordance with the University of Southern California's Foundation of Cross Connection Control and/or the American Water Works Association Manual of Cross Connection Control

## Backflow Testing and CSI Requirements

East Garrett W.S.C. refers to International Plumbing Code and TCEQ rules for test procedures and installation requirements. Final authority remains with East Garrett W.S.C., and each case is considered individually. Inventory of backflow assemblies and testing records are maintained by East Garrett W.S.C.

To register and submit a report, backflow testers and customer service inspectors need to register with SC Tracking Solutions at [www.sctrackingsolutions.com](http://www.sctrackingsolutions.com).

A CSI is required at all new service connections, existing service connection where the PWS has reason to believe that cross-connections or other potential contamination hazards exist, and existing service connections where a material improvement, correction, or addition has been made to the private water distribution facilities [30 TAC 290.46(j)]. The results of the customer-service inspection will identify any cross-connections or actual or potential contamination hazards and determine if backflow prevention is required at the site. **Any hazard must be isolated from the drinking-water supply regardless of when the hazard was first created, or the site was built. Because the effects of a backflow event can be so significant, there are no grandfather clauses that apply to cross-connection control and backflow prevention in the TCEQ's regulations on backflow and siphonage.**

- To a newly constructed facility or previously developed property, which is requesting water service
- Where any correction or addition to the plumbing of any facility on the property has occurred
- After any material improvement to building(s) or the property

## Backflow Assemblies Testing Requirements

Assemblies used for protection from health hazards, whether installed at the meter or part of an internal program, must be tested upon installation and once a year thereafter by a licensed backflow prevention assembly tester and the records must be retained by the PWS for at least three years. TCEQ rules require that all backflow prevention assemblies be tested upon installation, and that assemblies installed to protect against health hazards must be tested annually [30 TAC 290.44(h)(4)]. In order to conserve water, many irrigation systems are supplied with reclaimed water. "Reclaimed water" is defined in 30 TAC 210. It refers to wastewater that is discharged under a TCEQ "210 Permit" for beneficial use. If the beneficial use involves human contact, the water is considered Type 1 reclaimed water; if not, the water is called Type 2 reclaimed water. Many irrigation systems are installed on sites that have an on-site sewage facility (such as a septic tank).

The existence of the OSSF elevates the classification of the irrigation system to a health hazard requiring the installation of an RP. Before 2009, a Double-Check Valve Assembly was allowed on irrigation systems installed on sites that also had an OSSF. As a result, there are currently installed irrigation systems that do not have the correct backflow prevention assembly. To address this, the current version of the landscape-irrigation rules states: If an irrigation system is connected to a potable water supply and requires major maintenance, alteration, repair, or service, the system must be connected to the potable water supply through an approved, properly installed backflow prevention method as defined in this title before any major maintenance, alteration, repair, or service is performed. [30 TAC 344.52(a)]

Historically, this regulation was taken to mean that systems that were installed before 2009 were essentially grandfathered until they required "major maintenance, alteration,

repair, or service. “When the backflow preventer can no longer be repaired in line and must be replaced, it must be upgraded to the required RP.

Since 2009, those installing irrigation systems on sites that also have an OSSF must be aware of the change in the required backflow prevention and install the RP.

**To search for TCEQ licensed customer service inspectors, please go to:**

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/licensing/licenses/csilic>

East Garrett W.S.C reviews all incoming backflow test reports and customer service inspection certificates. Documentation submitted after 4 p.m. will be processed the next business day.

**Quick Reference:**

- [Cross Connection Brochure](#)

For more information, please contact East Garrett W.S.C. @ 469-383-6362 or eastgarrettwatersupply@yahoo.com.