

## **Frequently Asked questions**

We hope the following helps answer your questions about Soos Creek's Cross Connection Control Program. If you do not see an answer to your question please contact us at 253.630.9900.

**Q:** Why do I have to test my backflow prevention assembly every year?

**A:** Backflow prevention assemblies are installed to protect your drinking water from potential sources of contamination. The only way to ensure that they are working properly is to have them tested by a certified Backflow Assembly Tester (BAT). The Washington Administrative Code, Section 246-290-490 require annual testing of installed backflow prevention assemblies.

**Q:** Who can test backflow prevention assemblies?

**A:** All backflow prevention assemblies must be tested by a State of Washington Certified Backflow Assembly Tester (BAT). Soos Creek does provide a list of testers to our customers. This list is not a recommendation and additional testers can be found [http://www.instruction.greenriver.edu/wacertservices/bat/bat\\_publiclist.asp](http://www.instruction.greenriver.edu/wacertservices/bat/bat_publiclist.asp).

**Q:** I have my backflow assembly tested every year as required but my neighbor says that they have never heard of the testing requirement.

**A:** There may be several reasons why your neighbor has not received any test due notices from Soos Creek. The most common reason is that we do not know about the installation. Many times customers make modifications to their water system and do not take out the required and necessary permits for the work. Taking out a permit ensures that your work is inspected and is installed per the governing codes. Most importantly, it ensures that you, your family and, if applicable, your customers are protected. Your neighbor may also have installed a non-testable device. There are very specific installation requirements that must be met for non-testable devices that make them impractical for many customers to use. Soos Creek conducts frequent inspections of all of our water service connections to ensure that all cross connections are eliminated or isolated from the water system.

**Q:** I am not using my irrigation system anymore do I still need to test the backflow assembly?

**A:** As long as the irrigation system is physically connected to the water system your backflow prevention assembly must be tested. Soos Creek will suspend the testing requirement if the customer provides a physical disconnect between the irrigation system and the Public Water Supply by removing the backflow prevention assembly and capping the water supply line. You must contact Soos Creek section to arrange for a verification inspection once the line has been capped.

**Q:** What will happen if I choose not to test my backflow prevention assembly?

**A:** When a customer fails to send in the inspection/test report within 10 days after the due date specified, and the District has not approved an extension, the District will take the following enforcement action:

1. The District will send a second notice giving the customer an additional 14 days to send in the report. This notice will also inform the customer that failure to satisfactorily respond to this notice will result in service shut-off

2. If the customer has not sent in the report by the due date given in the second notice, the District will hand deliver a notice, giving 7 days to service shut-off
3. The District will send copies of the third notice to occupants of the premises (if different from the customer), and to the AHJ.
4. If the customer has not responded satisfactorily by the due date specified in the third notice, the District will implement service shut-off.

Soos Creek will make every effort to work with the customer to avoid any of these actions from being taken but we must ensure that the drinking water system is protected from any contaminants.