

SA Water Backflow Prevention Requirements for Water Connections

The Office of the Technical Regulator (OTR) manages Backflow Prevention to meet the AS/NZS 3500 Plumbing and Drainage Standards. For further information, please visit www.sa.gov.au/otrplumbing or call OTR on 1300 760 311. The information in this fact sheet provides an overview of SA Water's and the customer's obligations to protect the public water supply.

20mm metered water connections

When applying for new water connections a plumbing contractor or qualified person must assess and provide information relating to the proposed use and potential hazard level of the proposed on-site activities, in compliance with AS/NZS 3500.1 (e.g. low, medium or high hazard).

SA Water's new 20mm drinking water meters contain a low hazard (containment) backflow prevention device (dual check valve) installed in the meter assembly.

If the hazard rating on the property is greater than low, a suitably rated backflow prevention device will need to be installed at the connection to the drinking water connection. The device will need to be supplied and installed by a licensed plumber.

25mm and larger water metered connections

When applying for drinking water connections 25mm or larger the plumber must assess the hazard rating of onsite activities and install a suitably rated backflow prevention device. The backflow prevention device needs to be situated at the property boundary adjacent to the water meter.

For maintenance and testing purposes, isolation valves must be located either side of a testable backflow prevention device. A line strainer is also required to be installed upstream of the device (except on fire service installations). Isolation valves installed on services of 80mm and larger must be a gear activated type.

Existing property water connection

The hazard rating and backflow prevention requirements for a property may change if another water supply is present or there is a change in the onsite activity. The level of protection will need to be assessed by a licensed plumber.

Fire hydrants or sprinkler services

Fire services must have a single spring-loaded check valve installed on the internal pipe work within 3.0 metres of the property boundary in accordance with plumbing installation standards. Fire hose reels may also require backflow protection dependent upon the risk rating as assessed by the plumbing contractor or qualified person.

Where there are two or more fire services interconnected within the property, the spring-loaded check valve shall be of an in-line testable type with certified resilient seated gear activated isolating valves installed either side of the check valve to permit maintenance and testing.