



## City of Charlottesville

Department of Neighborhood Development Services  
City Hall • P.O. Box 911 • Charlottesville, VA 22902

To: Builder, Developers, Plumbing contractors, Property Owners & Managers  
From: Roscoe Gilmore, Charlottesville Regulatory Compliance Administrator  
Date: 12-13-2010  
Ref: Cross Connection Control & Backflow Prevention

The City of Charlottesville must establish and enforce a cross connection control & backflow prevention program as a condition to operate a community public waterworks. These requirements are found in the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Health Waterworks Regulations (see Part II, Article 3, Sections 12 VAC 5-590 through 630). I have attached a copy of current Virginia Plumbing Code General Regulations and testing requirements for your information.

Cross-contamination presents a serious hazard to our water supply. Cross-contamination into a public water system can pollute or contaminate the water in that system and can make the water unusable or unsafe to drink, and each water supplier has a responsibility to provide water that is usable and safe to drink under all foreseeable circumstances. The City of Charlottesville is dedicated to providing our community safe and clean water for drinking and for recreational purposes and thus we have put in place a program to prevent cross-contamination in our water supply.

As part of our program, current buildings or facilities listed below, as well new construction or changes of use that fall within the below list are required to install, utilize and maintain acceptable cross-connection and/or backflow prevention devices. This list includes but is not limited to the following types of businesses:

1. Hospitals, mortuaries, clinics, veterinary establishments, nursing homes, and medical buildings;
2. Laboratories;
3. Piers, docks, and waterfront facilities;
4. Sewage treatment plants, sewage pumping stations, or storm water pumping stations;
5. Food and beverage processing plants;
6. Chemical plants, dyeing plants and pharmaceutical plants;
7. Metal plating industries;
8. Petroleum or natural gas processing or storage plants;
9. Radioactive materials processing plants or nuclear reactors;
10. Car washes and laundries;
11. Lawn sprinkler systems, and irrigation systems;
12. Fire service systems;
13. Slaughter houses and poultry processing plants;
14. Farms where the water is used for other than household purposes;
15. Commercial greenhouses and nurseries;
16. Health clubs with swimming pools, therapeutic baths, hot tubs, or saunas;
17. Paper and paper products plants and printing plants;
18. Pesticide or exterminating companies and their vehicles with storage or mixing tanks;
19. Schools or colleges with laboratory facilities;
20. High rise buildings (four or more stories);
21. Multiuse commercial, office, or warehouse facilities; and
22. Others specified by the purveyor or the division when reasonable cause can be shown for a potential backflow or cross connection hazard.

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For specific backflow prevention devices and cross-connection requirements, or if you have any questions regarding the cross-connection backflow devices that may be required for your building, please contact me at (434)970-3032 or email [gilmorer@charlottesville.org](mailto:gilmorer@charlottesville.org)

## **2009 VIRGINIA PLUMBING CODE**

**312.10 Inspection and testing of backflow prevention assemblies.** Inspection and testing shall comply with Sections 312.10.1 and 312.10.2.

**312.10.1 Inspections.** Annual inspections shall be made of all backflow prevention assemblies and air gaps to determine whether they are operable.

**312.10.2 Testing.** Reduced pressure principle backflow preventer assemblies, double check-valve assemblies, pressure vacuum breaker assemblies, reduced pressure detector fire protection backflow prevention assemblies, double check detector fire protection backflow prevention assemblies, hose connection backflow preventers, and spill proof vacuum breakers shall be tested at the time of installation, immediately after repairs or relocation and at least annually. The testing procedure shall be performed in accordance with one of the following standards:

ASSE 5013, ASSE 5015, ASSE 5020, ASSE 5047, ASSE 5048, ASSE 5052, ASSE 5056, CSA B64.10 or CSA B64.10.1.