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In This Issue...

Online Exam
Application &
Payments

Renewal Update

Winterizing Irrigation
Systems

Financial Awards

Quick Links:

[BAT Home](#)

[BAT Certification
Status](#)

Contact Us:

Washington
Certification
Services

1221 D Street NE
Auburn, WA 98002
Phone: 253-288-3357

www.wacertservices.org



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Issue 14 - Fall 2016

BATalk - is an electronic newsletter sharing important certification program information with Washington's Backflow Assembly Testers (BAT).

IMPORTANT UPDATE

NEW ONLINE BAT EXAM APPLICATION AND PAYMENT PROCESS

Washington Certification Services is now accepting online applications and fees for Backflow Assembly Tester [certification](#) and [professional growth](#) examinations. Applicants can submit an electronic application and pay the examination fee with a debit or credit card.

All BAT examination applications and payments must be submitted using the new online system. Paper applications with payment by check or money order are no longer accepted.

The process is simple! Just select an examination date and location; complete the short online application; and proceed to the payment screen to enter your credit or debit card information. Applicants will receive an email confirming eligibility and our receipt of the application and payment, usually within five business days.

BAT CERTIFICATION RENEWAL UPDATE

The 2017 Backflow Assembly Tester certification renewal process is going green! In November renewal notices will be sent only via email to all certified BATs. A direct link to the BAT Renewal web page will be included, so all you have to do is click and pay by credit or debit card. Payment by check or money order will no longer be accepted. If you don't have a credit or debit card you can purchase a prepaid reloadable card at most major retail stores.

Your first renewal notice will be sent to the email address on file with Washington Certification Services. You will not receive a paper copy by USPS mail.

BATs that do not pay by the first renewal deadline in January will receive a second and final notice both by email and first class mail. This second notice will assess a late fee. Remember - if you do not pay your 2017 renewal fee by the final deadline date your certificate will be inactivated.

WINTERIZING IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Improper winterization practices can cause a backflow incident or damage a backflow assembly. The best way to protect a backflow assembly in winter is to remove it and store it in a secure area, but if you leave the assembly in place and use compressed air you must take precautions.

The shut-off valves and test cocks on backflow assemblies are for maintenance and testing only!

- Don't isolate the irrigation system with the assembly shut-off valves.
- Don't connect an air compressor to the assembly test cocks.

High pressure air can backflow into the distribution system, damaging fixtures and contaminating the potable water.

It can also damage the backflow assembly, irrigation piping and sprinkler heads.

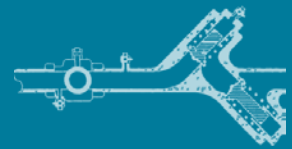
Correctly winterize an irrigation system with compressed air by following these steps:

- Use an appropriate valve to isolate the irrigation system from the potable water system.
- Install air compressor blow-out fittings downstream of the backflow assembly.
- Close the downstream shut-off valve on the assembly before applying compressed air.
- Increase air pressure slowly and don't exceed the water pressure in the public water system.
- Don't "blast" water out with a burst of air. If water can't be pushed out at a steady rate use a higher capacity compressor.
- Don't leave a compressor unattended while connected to the irrigation system. If it takes longer than a few minutes, shut the compressor down and investigate the cause.
- Leave the assembly shut-off valves in the half-open position and wrap in insulated material.
- Loosen the covers on the check and relief valves to drain the valve cavities if needed, but re-tighten the covers before putting the assembly back in service.

BAT FINANCIAL AWARDS PROMOTE INDUSTRY DIVERSITY

Washington Certification Services is launching two new financial awards in support of the Washington Waterworks Operator Certification Program's workforce development initiative. The Glass Hammer and Glass Stairs Awards will both promote women's involvement in the backflow field. The application process will open on November 1, 2016. Please share this opportunity with women that are interested in becoming certified as a Backflow Assembly Tester or that are already certified but need financial assistance to meet the professional growth requirement.

Washington Certification Services (WCS)
1221 D Street NE | Auburn, WA 98002



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