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Issue 18 - Fall 2017

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

IMPORTANT UPDATE

Online Renewal & Validation Cards

Washington Certification Services has launched another enhancement to its menu of online services for Backflow Assembly Testers (BAT). [Validation cards](#) for certified BATs are now available online. The card can be printed or saved as a PDF document that testers can submit electronically to a water purveyor.

Remember! Starting with 2018 BAT renewals you will no longer receive a hard copy validation card in the mail.

How do I renew my certificate online?

2018 renewal notices will be sent to you via email beginning early in November. Then all you have to do is use the link provided for [detailed instructions](#) and to pay your fee with a credit or debit card. If your email address or other contact information has changed, notify Washington Certification Services by submitting an [Information Change Form](#).

When can I print my validation card?

You can print your 2017 validation until November 1, 2017. After that you can print your 2018 validation card about 10 business days after your online renewal payment has been processed. To log in and verify eligibility, all you need is your BAT certification number and the last four digits of your social security number.

ODW EXPANDS FOCUS ON CROSS-CONNECTION

The Washington State Office of Drinking Water (ODW) continues to focus on expanding its cross-connection control (CCC) and backflow prevention initiatives. Have you read the May 2017 issue of the [H2Ops newsletter](#) yet? It is packed cover-to-cover with useful articles, information and resources related to the importance of protecting the public water supply from contamination through cross-connections.

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH EXAM DATES

December 31, 2018 is the professional growth deadline for all Backflow Assembly Testers certified before January 1, 2016. Beginning in 2018 most professional growth examinations will be scheduled on Thursdays instead of Fridays.

WHY WAIT? [APPLY NOW!](#)

BATs can apply for the professional growth examination any time during their reporting period.

Why the change?

- Many BATs prefer a day other than Friday to schedule their exam.
- Trainers still have three days open prior to an exam if they choose to schedule a class.
- WCS can schedule overflow exams on Fridays as needed to meet peak demand.

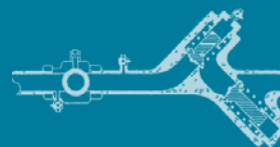
Professional growth examinations are added to the [online schedule](#) about three months in advance. Make sure to check the examination date and location carefully before submitting your [online application](#) and payment.

BAT AWARD APPLICATIONS OPEN SOON

A year ago Washington Certification Services launched two new awards. The Backflow Assembly Tester (BAT) Certification Glass Hammer Award covers the cost of the practical portion of the BAT certification examination. The Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Glass Stairs Award covers the cost of the BAT professional growth examination. Both awards support the Washington Waterworks Operator Certification Program's workforce development initiative by promoting women's longevity in the field of backflow assembly testing.

The 2018 awards will [open for application](#) on November 1, 2017. Women in the backflow industry that might benefit from this award are encouraged to apply.

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