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[BAT Home](#)

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#### Contact Us:

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Certification Services

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[www.wacertservices.org](http://www.wacertservices.org)

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

#### **IMPORTANT UPDATE**

#### **RENEW NOW TO AVOID LATE FEE**

The deadline to pay the \$42.00 fee to renew your BAT certification is January 22, 2018. Online payments submitted after January 22nd will be assessed an additional fee of \$35.00. If you do not pay the fee by the February 28, 2018 deadline your certificate will be inactivated effective March 1, 2018. To become certified again you will have to apply, pay all applicable fees, and pass both the hands-on and written parts of the BAT Certification Examination.

***[Pay your BAT renewal fee by January 22, 2018 to avoid the late fee!](#)***

2018 renewal notices were sent via email in November followed by reminders in December and January. If your email address or other contact information has changed, notify Washington Certification Services by submitting an [Information Change Form](#).

You will receive email notification when you can access your 2018 [validation card online](#), usually about 10 business days after your online renewal payment has been processed. You can print your card and save a copy on your computer.

## BAT EXAMINATION EQUIPMENT

All of the equipment necessary to conduct the BAT practical examination is provided by Washington Certification Services. Applicants will have the following equipment available at each examination site:

- Screw driver
- Vertical tube
- Bleed-off valve arrangement
- Midwest 830 five-valve differential pressure test kit
- Examination station



A lighter model five-valve test kit, Midwest 835, may also be available. Applicants should contact Washington Certification Services in advance to reserve a light test kit. A copy of the Non-Illustrated Field Test Procedures (excerpted from Chapter 9 of the USC Manual of Cross Connection Control 10th Edition) will be at the examination for your reference. Scratch paper is also provided.

Visit the Washington Certification Services web page for detailed information about the BAT [certification](#) and [professional growth](#) examinations.

## 2018 PROFESSIONAL GROWTH DEADLINE

December 31, 2018 is the professional growth deadline for all Backflow Assembly Testers certified

before January 1, 2016. BATs certified after that date have until December 31, 2021 to meet the professional growth requirement the first time.

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***WHY WAIT? [APPLY NOW!](#)***

*Avoid the rush and take advantage of availability for your preferred examination date and location.*

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Professional growth examinations are added to the [online schedule](#) about three months in advance. Just select your preferred examination date and location, then submit the [online application](#) and payment.

## **USING THE BLEED-OFF VALVE ARRANGEMENT**

A question commonly asked by Backflow Assembly Testers is "If I don't experience a malfunction that requires the use of a bleed-off valve arrangement to diagnose, why do I need to use it at all?" The answer is simple. The USC 10th Edition field test procedures currently approved by Washington State Department of Health specify how the bleed-off-valve arrangement must be used and don't provide exceptions that allow you to omit it.

According to the approved procedures, a bleed-off valve arrangement is necessary to properly compensate for and diagnose a malfunction. The potential always exists for a malfunction to occur requiring the use of an installed bleed-off valve arrangement - whether testing a backflow assembly in a lab/examination environment or in the field. Therefore if the field test procedures require installation of the bleed-off valve arrangement, you must do so during an examination.

You can obtain your own copy of the [10th Edition Field Test Procedures](#) by purchasing the Manual of Cross Connection Control, 10th Edition directly from the University of Southern California Foundation for Cross Connection Control and Hydraulic Research.

## **INSTALLATION & REPAIR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Have you wondered if you were required to have a Contractor Registration or be certified as a Specialty Plumber? Department of Health and Department of Labor and Industries have developed the [Backflow Assembly Testing, Installation & Repair Required Certification/Registration](#) document to assist you. Just use the chart to identify the type of assembly service you provide and easily

determine what the requirement is for that activity.

Visit the [Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention](#) section of the Department of Health's web page for more important information and resources for certified BATs and public water systems.

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