

Alternative Water Requirements

For all Alternative Water Sites:

- An “Alternative Water System Permit Application” form must be completed and submitted to the Austin Water Special Services Division (SSD) before a plumbing permit will be issued to install a RPZ (Reduced Pressure Zone) backflow preventer immediately downstream of the water meter, or other backflow assemblies that may be required on other types of service connections.
- If Austin Water will be used for backup to the irrigation system, another RPZ must be installed and tested for the irrigation system. If not, the existing backflow preventer must be removed and the lines capped.
- If the RPZ at the meter needs to be relocated due to valid site conditions, an “Alternate Method of Compliance” form must be completed and submitted to the SSD.
- All new components and existing exposed components shall be labeled per sections 601.3.1 through 601.3.4 of the “Plumbing Code” for the City of Austin (COA).
- After required preliminary inspections and backflow preventer tests have been completed, passed, and entered into WEIRS, a CCT (Cross Connection Test) must be completed by a Customer Service Inspector or a Water Supply Protection Specialist registered with the COA. The test results must be entered electronically into WEIRS.
- When the RPZ is installed at the meter, thermal expansion must be addressed with an expansion tank or other approved device (pressure relief valve set @ 100lbs (house side)) of RPZ.

For Water Well Sites:

- All of the above applies.
- A “Water Well Registration Form” must be completed and submitted to the SSD. The form must be signed by the owner or authorized agent (it does not need to be notarized if signed by the owner).

For all other alternative water sites (e.g. rainwater, lake/river water, reclaimed water or any other water source being used that is not from the COA potable system), an “Alternative Water System Registration” form must be completed and submitted to the SSD.

Forms & Resources:

All the above referenced forms and the Water Service Technicians List are available at:
<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/water-protection-forms-applications-and-reports>.

Special Services Division Contact Information:

- Phone: 512-972-1060 (select option 5 for Industrial Waste/Water Protection, then option 1 for Water Protection/Cross Connection)
- Email: awcrossconnection@austintexas.gov
- Fax: 512-972-1260
- Website: <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/cross-connection-control-water-protection-program>

