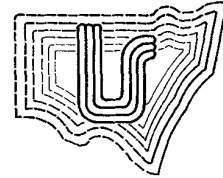




New South Wales
Government



Committee on Uniformity
of Plumbing and Drainage
Regulations in NSW
(CUPDR)

P&D Circular Number 2/2007 | 12 December 2007

Changed requirements for backflow prevention for rainwater tank installations

Variation and additions to NSW Code of Practice for Plumbing and Drainage, 3rd edition 2006

Section 14 Installation of Water Supply Systems from Rainwater Tanks of AS/NZS 3500:1 (2003) is varied as follows:

Delete existing NSW 14.3.4 (Part C, Section 14)

Add NSW 14.3.4 as follows:

NSW 14.3.4 Backflow prevention

Where rainwater tank installations have been designed and installed so as to allow connection with the drinking water supply the following is required (See also NSW Tables 14.1 and 14.2 below):

- (a) Zone protection – zone protection shall also be provided by installation of an authorised backflow prevention device, suitable for the degree of hazard and sized to suit the water service. The backflow prevention device shall be fitted immediately upstream on the drinking water service at the point of connection.

Where a hot water heater is fed by a rainwater supply, or any alternative water supply (e.g. bore or dam water), and a temperature control device is installed and connected to the mains drinking water supply then, a backflow prevention device shall be fitted upstream of the drinking water service at the point of connection with the temperature control device.

- (b) Containment protection – where a rainwater tank is to be connected (either directly or via an air gap) with the on-site drinking water supply, the mains supply shall be protected by installation of an authorised backflow prevention device, suitable for the degree of hazard and sized to suit the water service, fitted immediately downstream of the water meter or integral with the water meter.
- (c) The Authority shall permit a non-testable backflow prevention device to be used as zone protection for above ground rainwater tanks and a water meter with an integral dual check valve for containment if the drinking water service is DN 20 – DN 25.
- (d) **The Authority shall permit a non-testable (Vented Dual Check Valve (VDCV)) backflow prevention device to be used for containment protection and a non-testable device for zone protection for any fully or partially buried rainwater tank(s) installation.**
- (e) The Authority reserves the right to require greater backflow prevention or to disallow cross-connection if rainwater tanks are not installed or operated in strict compliance with the Authority's Plumbing Guidelines for Rainwater Tanks.
- (f) Where any sides of the rainwater tank are buried, the tank shall be treated as a fully buried tank for backflow prevention requirements.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION REQUIREMENTS (CONTAINMENT)

Rainwater Tank Location	Meter Size (mm)	Type of Backflow Prevention Containment
Above ground	≥20	Dual Check Valve (combined with meter) (non-testable device)
Fully or partially buried	≥20	Vented Dual Check Valve

BACKFLOW PREVENTION REQUIREMENTS (ZONE PROTECTION)

Rainwater Tank Location	Meter Size (mm)	Type of Backflow Prevention
Above ground	≥20	Dual Check Valve (non-testable device)
Fully or partially buried	≥20	Dual Check Valve (non-testable device)

Note: Where a Vented Dual Check Valve (VDCV) is not available in the required size a testable backflow prevention device shall be installed.

Should you wish to discuss further any aspect of the above, please contact the following:

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- Mr Kerry Short 0409 717 647 – Hunter Water Corporation region
- Mr Bryan Spangler (08) 8082 5827 – Country Water (Broken Hill) region
- Ms Emma Dawe (02) 8281 7362 – Local Government areas

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