BACKFLOW TESTERS — GUIDE

How to become a certified backflow tester

Check local acceptance before you choose an ASSE, ABPA or state certification route.

Updated November 10, 2026

Start with the place where you intend to work. Ask the state agency and water utility which credentials they accept. A training course, a certification exam, a state licence and local tester registration can be separate steps. Do not pay for a course on the assumption that its certificate grants permission everywhere.

ASSE route

ASSE International's official certification page identifies ASSE 5110 as its Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester program. The fetched page describes documented practical experience, an approved training course, a written exam and a practical exam. It lists separate qualifications for surveyors, repairers, fire sprinkler testers and program administrators. Testing certification does not automatically describe all these roles.

Use the current candidate handbook linked from that page when checking entry requirements and booking an exam. Ask the school which field procedure it teaches and whether your intended authority accepts it. Keep your certificate and check the issuer's public verification record.

ABPA and other accepted bodies

California's State Water Resources Control Board list, dated 2026-08-26, names ABPA, ASSE 5110 and CA-NV AWWA. It distinguishes state recognition from accreditation status and warns that local authorities may impose additional requirements. It is evidence of California acceptance status on that date, not a promise about another state or future acceptance.

For ABPA training and exam arrangements, request the current candidate instructions directly from ABPA. We could fetch the California official recognition list but could not fetch ABPA's own candidate page for this guide. We therefore do not quote ABPA course hours, fees, pass scores or renewal periods.

Texas state licensing

TCEQ's BPAT page says a person who tests or repairs the installation or operation of backflow prevention assemblies must hold a TCEQ licence. It describes education, work experience, training, application and examination steps. It also describes continuing education and renewal. Follow those instructions directly rather than treating a private certificate as a substitute.

The same page says BPAT licence holders may test and repair fire line assemblies only if permanently employed by an Approved Fireline Contractor. Check that employment condition before offering fire line services in Texas.

Canadian utility registration

Toronto's program lists eligible trades and professions with cross-connection certification and asks applicants for supporting documents. It tells testers not to test until their profile is created with the program. That is a useful example of why a certificate alone may not complete utility registration.

Keep a working credential file

Keep the qualification, issuer, number, expiry date, accepted procedures and utility registration records. Add test equipment calibration records and your report submission access. Confirm permission for repair and installation work separately. Tell customers exactly which individual will attend and which utility registrations apply.

Sources

All sources below were fetched on 2026-11-10. Dates beside titles identify publication, revision or access dates. This guide is information for planning. Confirm the current requirements with your water utility.

- ASSE International, Backflow Prevention Certification, accessed 2026-11-10.
- California State Water Resources Control Board, Recognized and Accredited Tester Certifications, 2026-08-26.
- TCEQ, Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester Licensing, accessed 2026-11-10.
- City of Toronto, Backflow Prevention Program, modified 2025-09-24.

Frequently asked questions

Is completing a course enough?

Check the certification, licensing and utility registration steps for the place where you will work.

Does a paid directory badge certify me?

No. Backflow Testers does not issue tester certification or utility registration.