



WATER SYSTEM REGULATIONS

ADOPTED: MARCH 13, 2006

BORDEN COUNTY WATER SYSTEM

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BORDEN COUNTY WATER SYSTEM

WATER SYSTEM REGULATIONS

1) DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of these Regulations, the following definitions shall apply:

Aesthetic water use: water use for ornamental or decorative purposes such as fountains, reflecting pools, and water gardens.

Agricultural water use: water use for the production of crops and livestock such as water to be used for the application of chemicals or supplemental water for animals.

Air gap: the unobstructed vertical distance through the free atmosphere between the lowest opening from any pipe or faucet conveying water to a tank, fixture, receptor, sink, or other assembly and the flood rim of the receptacle. The vertical, physical separation must be at least twice the diameter of the water supply outlet, but never less than one (1) inch.

Commercial and institutional water use: water use which is integral to the operations of commercial, non-profit establishments and non-governmental entities such as retail establishments, hotels and motels, restaurants, and office buildings.

Connection: a single family residential unit or each commercial or industrial establishment to which drinking water is supplied from the system.

Conservation: those practices, techniques, and technologies that reduce the consumption of water, reduce the loss or waste of water, improve the efficiency in the use of water or increase the recycling and reuse of water so that a supply is conserved and made available for future or alternative uses.

Cross-connection: a physical connection between a public water system and either another supply of unknown or questionable quality, any source which may contain contaminating or polluting substances, or any source of water treated to a lesser degree in the treatment process.

Customer: any person, company, or organization using water supplied by the Borden County Water System.

Domestic water use: water use for personal needs or for household or sanitary purposes such as drinking, bathing, heating, cooking, sanitation, or for cleaning a residence, business, industry, or institution.

Industrial water use: the use of water for purposes other than general consumption such as dust control, soil compaction, fire sighting and similar purposes.

Landscape irrigation use: water used for the irrigation and maintenance of landscape areas, whether publicly or privately owned, including residential and commercial lawns, gardens, golf courses, parks, right-of-ways and medians.

Public water system: a system for the provision to the public of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances, which includes all uses described under the definition for drinking water. Such a system must have at least fifteen (15) services connections or serve at least twenty-five (25) individuals at least sixty (60) days out of the year. Without excluding other meanings of the terms “individual” or “served”, an individual shall be deemed to be served by a water system if he lives in, uses as his place of employment, or works in a place to which drinking water is supplied from the system.

Non-essential water use: water uses that are not essential, nor required for the protection of public, health, safety, and welfare, including:

- a. Irrigation of landscape areas, including parks, athletic fields, and golf courses, except otherwise provided under this Plan;
- b. Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle;
- c. Use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
- d. Use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
- e. Flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street;
- f. Use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools or Jacuzzi-type pools;
- g. Use of water in a fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes except where necessary to support aquatic life;
- h. Failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s); and
- i. Use of water from hydrants for construction purposes or any other purposes other than firefighting.

Bulk water station: is a self-service device used for the filling of containers with water. The device does not require replenishing after each use. The device requires a customer identification number and a PIN number for operation.

2) TYPE OF WATER SERVICE

- a) Metered water service shall be provided for domestic, agricultural and commercial/industrial use.
- b) Bulk water shall be provided at the water fill station (Courthouse) for domestic, agricultural and commercial/industrial use. Any requests for water to be used for commercial/industrial use shall be considered on a case by case basis and a determination shall be made by the Commissioner's Court or their designee. These requests should be written and submitted to the County Judge's Office to be placed on the agenda of the next Commissioner's Court meeting.

3) SERVICE AGREEMENT AND WATER METER DEPOSIT

- a) A Service Agreement shall be issued at the time of a request for metered water service. The Service Agreement must be signed and dated by the customer and submitted with the appropriate fees to the County Judge's Office before a service connection shall be authorized. The original Service Agreement must be on file in the County Judge's Office. A copy of this agreement will be available to the customer. There shall be no debt owed to Borden County by the individual submitting the request.
- b) A fee shall be charged as a deposit for metered water service (see 5) b)). This fee shall be returned to the consumer upon termination of the account and the final bill is paid. Upon termination of account, all customer account information and the water meter shall be removed.

4) BULK WATER STATION

- a) A Water Station Service Agreement shall be issued at the time of a request for bulk water purchase. The Service Agreement must be signed and dated by the customer and submitted to the Borden County Judge's Office before an account is created and a personal identification number (PIN) is issued. The original Service Agreement must be on file in the County Judge's Office. A

copy of this agreement will be available to the customer. There shall be no debt owed to Borden County by the individual submitting the request.

- b) A fee of \$15.00 shall be accessed for each account created. A fee of \$5.00 shall be accessed for a replacement ID card. Upon termination of the account, all customer account information will be removed from the system database.

5) METER INSTALLATION

- a) New Service Installation – A tapping fee shall be charged for each new service installation according to the size of the meter tap. A site survey shall be conducted prior to installation and applicable fees will be calculated at that time. Chart #1 (see page 7) shall be used to calculate these fees. Installation fees may be divided in to equal payments over a period of three (3) months and included with the monthly water use invoice.
- b) Refundable account deposits shall be required for new installations and re-connect of water meters.
 - Residential deposit \$50.00
 - Commercial deposit \$100.00
- c) Re-connect of water meter – A fee shall be charged for a re-connect of a water meter where a water meter connection currently exists.
 - Residential \$100.00
 - Commercial \$150.00
- d) Water service shall be offered to all consumers within the original townsite of Gail. Proof of ownership of the property or a notarized affidavit from the property owner granting permission for water service must be provided prior to approval for installation. Proof of ownership shall be by deed, title or other legal documents indicating right of possession.
- e) If the installation is for a mobile home unit, this unit must be in place before water service will be installed.
- f) If the installation is for a permanent structure, the foundation must be started before water service will be installed.
- g) If the installation is for commercial use, foundation must be started before water service will be installed.

6) WATER METER ACCESS

- a) Water meters must remain clear of any barriers or dangerous animals(s) to allow Borden County Water System employees and/or agents to have access to the water meters for maintenance and the monthly recording of water usage.
- b) When a Borden County Water System employee and/or agent is denied access to a water meter by a barrier or dangerous animal(s) on or around the water meter, the customer will be notified by mail, and the customer must permanently remove the barrier or dangerous animal(s) within ten (10) days. If the barrier is not removed within the time period allowed, the water usage for that month shall be set at the previous month’s usage plus fifty percent (50%).
- c) When a customer has been notified two (2) times for removal of the barrier or dangerous animal(s), water service shall be terminated and the water meter shall be removed.
- d) To re-instate water service under Section 6, the customer must apply to the Commissioner’s Court. Upon approval by the Commissioner’s Court, a Service Agreement must be signed by the

customer and placed on file in the County Judge's Office. The appropriate fees shall be paid before the service connection is re-instated.

7) WATER RATES

- a) See Chart #2 (see page 7) for residential, commercial and ranch water rates.
- b) The monthly minimum rate will be charged from the date of installation and each month thereafter even in the event of no water usage. (Minimum rate is per first 2,000 gallons used.)
- c) See Chart #3 (see page 7) for bulk water rates.

8) PAYMENT FOR WATER USED

NOTE: THE DATES LISTED BELOW MAY VARY DUE TO HOLIDAYS AND WEEKENDS.

- a) Water meters shall be read on the 24th thru the 28th of each month.
- b) Meter readings shall be posted no later than the 29th of each month.
- c) Water bill shall be printed and mailed on the 29th thru the 30th of each month.
- d) Payment for water shall be due on or before the 15th of each month.
- e) A late charge of \$20.00 shall be applied to accounts on the 16th of each month and past due notices shall be mailed.
- f) If full payment is not received by the 15th of the second month, the water service shall be terminated and the water meter shall be removed or locked.
- g) A written request to enter into a payment agreement for a delinquent water bill may be submitted to the County Judge's Office. The request will be placed on the agenda to be considered at the next meeting of the Commissioner's Court. If the request is approved, the Commissioner's Court shall set the terms of the agreement.
- h) When payment is received after a water meter has been removed or locked, there shall be a \$100.00 re-connect fee applied for residential accounts and a \$150.00 re-connect fee applied for commercial accounts. Before service is re-instated, a new Service Agreement must be signed by the customer and placed on file in the County Judge's Office.
- i) When the Borden County Water System is left with a delinquent water bill, because the customer moved from the townsite of Gail, and would like to have service re-connected, the following conditions must be met:
 - Payment of the delinquent water bill must be paid.
 - An amount equal to the delinquent water bill must be paid.
 - A re-connect fee shall be paid. A re-connect fee is not refundable.
 - A new Service Agreement must be signed and placed on file in the County Judge's Office.

9) WATER LEAKS BEYOND THE METER

- a) Borden County is not responsible for leaks beyond the water meter. (This refers to the customers plumbing.) All charges for water shall be based on the water meter readings. There shall be no adjustments of the water meter readings or the charges incurred, unless the readings are proved to be erroneous and are validated by an employee or agent of the Borden County Water System.
- b) There shall be a \$20.00 fee for testing of a water meter when requested by the customer. This fee shall be waived if the water meter is proven to be faulty.

10) RETURNED CHECKS

- a) There shall be a service charge of \$25.00 for each returned check.

11) WATER SERVICE CONNECTIONS OUTSIDE OF GAIL TOWNSITE.

- a) A water meter tap may be provided only if water is available. The Commissioner's Court or their designee shall consider each request for a water meter tap on a per case basis.
- b) If water service is approved, the customer shall, at his or her, own expense, provide pipe, ditching and all labor for this installation. All piping shall meet specifications set by the Commissioner's Court.
- c) Water service connections, and water rates, on the transmission line west of Everett Tank to the water wells shall be according to water service agreements.
- d) Water service connections on the transmission line east of the Everett Tank to the west boundary of Gail shall be considered on an individual case basis. Water rates shall be according to Chart #2, Ranch Rates (see page 7).

NOTE: At this time the Commissioner's Court is not approving additional water meter taps on the transmission west of Gail.

12) FLUORIDE CONTENT

- a) Drinking water from the Borden County Water System exceeds the standards for fluoride content.
- b) To comply with TCEQ regulations bottled water shall be furnished to households that are connected to the Borden County Water System with children under fourteen (14) years of age. Bottled water may be purchased by the customer at the rate of fifteen (15) gallons per child per month. The Borden County Water System shall reimburse the customer when receipts are surrendered to the County Treasurer.

13) INSTALLATIONS FOR PROVIDING LIVESTOCK WATER

- a) All installations used for livestock purposes shall be metered. New installations shall be inspected and documented by water department personnel before a water meter is installed. Existing installations shall be subject to random inspections by water department personnel.
- b) Vessels used for livestock watering shall be water tight and constructed of concrete, steel, plastic, fiberglass, or other approved material. Vessels or plumbing material used for any purpose other than water storage or supply is strictly prohibited.
- c) An air gap of six (6) inches or more must be provided at each installation. Any installation that fails to maintain the air gap requirement shall be in violation of TCEQ rules and shall be taken out of service immediately by water department personnel. Water service shall be continued when the violation is corrected. Water department personnel shall inspect and document corrections made to the installation.
- d) Any leakage or overflow of water from the vessel should be repaired or corrected to water department satisfaction as soon as possible by the owner. Any leakage or overflow from a vessel shall be documented by water department personnel and the owner shall be notified. A notice shall be issued after ten (10) days if the cause of the leakage or overflow is not corrected. If it is not corrected within thirty (30) days water service shall be terminated. A re-connect fee of \$150.00 shall be paid before water service is re-instated.

- e) Supplying water to any type of earth receptacle is strictly prohibited. A violation shall result in immediate termination of water service at this site. This method of water storage and supply is deemed inefficient and poses considerable risk of contamination to the public water supply. Any consideration for future water service must be presented to the Commissioner's Court and shall require a personal appearance by the customer. A new Water Service Agreement must be signed by the customer and placed on file in the Borden County Judge's office. A re-connect fee of \$150.00 shall be paid before water service is re-instated.

TAPPING FEE AND WATER RATE CHARTS

CHART #1 - TAPPING RATES AND ASSOCIATED FEES

Tapping Rates	
¾" meter	\$500.00
1" meter	\$600.00
1-1/2" meter	\$850.00
2" meter	Actual Cost
3" meter	Actual Cost
4" meter	Actual Cost
Associated Fees	
Pavement Cut	\$250.00
Connect Fee-Residential	\$100.00
Connect Fee-Commercial	\$150.00

CHART #2 – WATER RATES

Residential and Commercial Service:

¾" meter	\$38.25 with 2,000 gallons
¾" meter, Senior/Church	\$22.50 with 2,000 gallons
1" meter	\$42.25 with 2,000 gallons
1" meter, Senior	\$28.25 with 2,000 gallons
1-1/2" meter	\$60.00 with 2,000 gallons
2" meter	\$65.00 with 2,000 gallons
3" – 4" meter	\$175.00 with 2,000 gallons

Water Use Rates:

2,001 – 5,000 gallons	\$6.00 per thousand
5,001 – 10,000 gallons	\$6.50 per thousand
10,001 +	\$7.00 per thousand

Ranch Rates:

¾" meter	\$25.00 per month, per meter
1000 - 200,000 gallons	\$6.00 per thousand
200,001 + gallons	\$9.00 per thousand

CHART #3 - BULK WATER STATION RATES

Residential:	\$7.00 per thousand
Agriculture	\$7.00 per thousand
Commercial/Industrial	\$7.00 per thousand

EXHIBIT A

SPECIFICATIONS FOR WATER SERVICE LINES THAT ARE PROVIDED AND INSTALLED BY THE CONSUMER AS DICTATED BY SECTION 5(f) OF THESE REGULATIONS.

These specifications are set by the Borden County Commissioner's Court. Any variance to these specifications must be reviewed and approved by the Commissioner's Court. A written request must be submitted to the County Judge's Office. The request will be placed on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting of the Commissioner's Court. The request must list the specifications to be considered for change and a detailed description of the items to be used as an alternative.

Prior to backfill, the consumer shall notify the County Judge's Office and schedule an inspection of the installation. A Borden County employee and/or agent will conduct an inspection of the installation and the backfill material. Upon approval, the trench may be backfilled.

PIPING AND FITTING SPECIFICATION:

- Piping shall be ¾" or larger and based on iron or copper pipe sizes.
- Piping shall be schedule 40 or better.
- Piping shall be PVC, copper, brass, or any poly-based material meeting the specs listed above. **Note: Steel or iron pipe will not be permitted.**
- Fittings shall be those approved for use with the type of pipe being installed.
- Fittings shall be PVC, copper or brass. **Note: Steel or iron pipe fittings will not be permitted.**
- A water valve shall be installed on the customer side of the water meter to be used by the customer to stop the flow of water to a structure in the event of a piping failure or during times of non-use. The valve shall be equivalent to the piping size and constructed of PVC, copper, brass or stainless steel.

TRENCHING:

- Trenches shall be a minimum of 16" in depth.
- Trenches shall have a flat, graded bottom.
- Trench bottoms shall be free of rocks, concrete, stumps or other foreign material that has the potential to damage piping.
- Backfill material shall be free of rocks, concrete, stumps or other foreign material that has the potential to damage piping.
- Backfill material shall be compacted and the trench shall be free of voids.

REDUCED PRESSURE BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY AND REDUCED PRESSURE ZONE ASSEMBLY:

- All backflow prevention assemblies that are required according to Chapter 290.44(h) and associated table located in Chapter 290.47(i) of the "Rules and Regulations for Public Water Systems" shall be tested upon installation and certified to be operating within specifications. Backflow prevention assemblies which are installed to provide protection against health hazards must be tested and certified to be operating within specifications annually.

- All testing must be provided by a recognized backflow prevention assembly tester. All test reports must be completed, signed and dated by the recognized tester. The original report must be submitted the County Judge's Office for recordkeeping purposes.

NOTE: For installations that require a reduced pressure backflow device to be installed, refer to the document titled **Exhibit B, "Installation Instructions for Reduced Pressure Backflow Assembly (RPBA) and Reduced Pressure Zone Assembly (RPZA)"**. This document lists the requirements necessary to install these devices and the procedure for proper testing. It will be provided to the consumer upon determination that a backflow device is required. It is available in the County Judge's Office upon request.

THESE REGULATIONS WERE ORIGINALLY ADOPTED ON FEBRUARY 1, 2006.

REVISIONS ADOPTED ON THIS 12TH DAY OF MARCH, 2012.
REVISIONS ADOPTED ON THIS 8TH DAY OF MAY, 2012.
REVISIONS ADOPTED ON THIS 22ND DAY OF JULY, 2014
REVISIONS ADOPTED ON THIS 3RD DAY OF JANUARY, 2018
REVISIONS ADOPTED ON THIS 14TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2020
REVISIONS ADOPTED ON THIS 26TH DAY OF MAY, 2020
REVISIONS ADOPTED ON THIS 14TH DAY OF JULY, 2020
REVISIONS ADOPTED ON THIS 8TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2022



Ross D. Sharp
County Judge

ATTEST:

Jana Underwood
County Clerk

EXHIBIT B

BORDEN COUNTY WATER SYSTEM

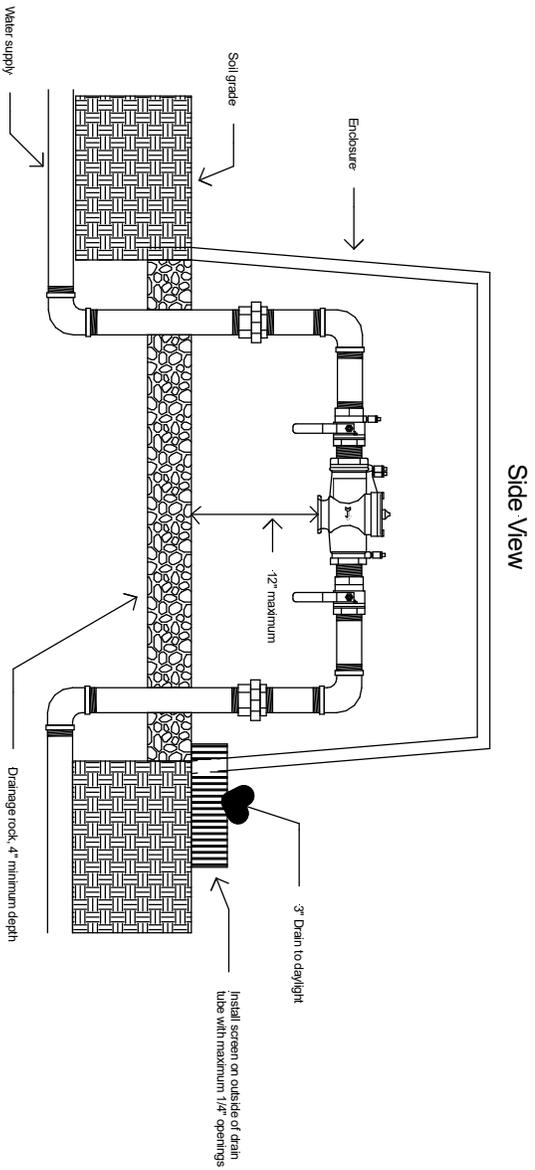
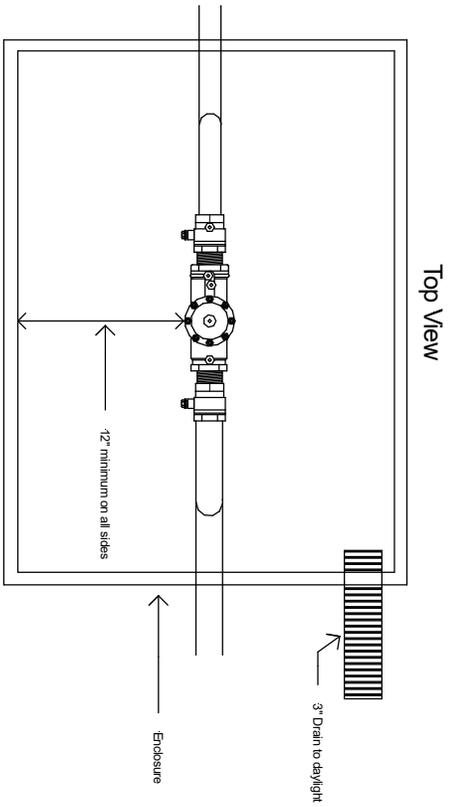
INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR REDUCED PRESSURE BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY (RPBA) AND REDUCED PRESSURE ZONE ASSEMBLY (RPZA).

All backflow prevention devices must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions and the following Borden County Water System specifications.

- Pipelines shall be thoroughly flushed to remove foreign material and debris before installing the backflow device.
- Commercial installation shall be considered on a per case basis.
- Residential installation is on side of building or house. (recommended)
- The backflow prevention device assembly shall include two (2) shut off valves in full compliance of the device manufacturer and supplied with the backflow device. The inlet valve shall have a test port (cock) on the upstream side of the valve.
- The backflow device shall be placed in a horizontal position unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer's instructions. The device must be protected from freezing temperatures.
- The backflow device shall be installed in an accessible location to facilitate testing and servicing. Installation shall be either on the master water meter assembly downstream just after the water meter or near the property line when a meter is not used. When conditions will not allow a backflow device to be installed as designated in the rule, a request for waiver of the rule may be submitted to the County Judge's Office. The request must be submitted in writing by the consumer and will be considered on a per case basis by the County Judge and the water system Operator. Water meter pipe size normally dictates the backflow device size. Head loss and volume requirements should be determined prior to installation; see manufacturer's head loss curve for more information.
- Parallel backflow devices may be necessary if water shut down during testing is not practical.
- The backflow device shall be installed with a minimum of 12" (inches) clearance between the relief valve opening and ground level. A 3" (inch) drain to daylight shall be provided at ground level in order to prevent any part of the device from becoming submerged. A screen with ¼" maximum openings shall be installed on the outside of the drain to daylight. The area under the backflow device shall have a minimum of 4" (inches) of drainage rock to prevent pooling during testing. See page 3 for illustrations.
- Backflow devices installed in modified enclosures shall have at least 12" (inches) of clearance on each side of the device to facilitate testing and servicing.
- Never plug or solidly pipe the relief valve into a drainage ditch, sewer pipe or pump. The relief valve discharge opening shall terminate at a minimum of 12" (inches) above ground level so that it is clearly visible and accessible. The device shall be adequately supported to prevent the assembly from sagging.
- The backflow device test ports (cocks) shall be threaded and plugged, and not used for any other purpose except testing, as is the intent of the manufacturer.
- The backflow device shall meet the requirements of ASSE standard 1013 and AWWA standard C511.

- A strainer is recommended and may be installed ahead of the device to extend service life by preventing fouling from debris.
- All backflow prevention assemblies that are required according to Chapter 290.44(h) and associated table located in Chapter 290.47(i) of the “Rules and Regulations for Public Water Systems” shall be tested upon installation and certified to be operating within specifications. Backflow prevention assemblies which are installed to provide protection against health hazards must be tested and certified to be operating within specifications annually.
- All testing must be provided by a recognized backflow prevention assembly tester. All test reports must be completed, signed and dated by the recognized tester. The original report must be submitted the County Judge’s Office for recordkeeping purposes.
- A copy of the TCEQ rule governing all backflow prevention assemblies is available, upon request, at the County Judge’s Office.

Please contact the Borden County Judge’s Office with any questions concerning these regulations and to schedule an inspection of an installation. The office number is 806-756-4391. Our office hours are 8:00 am - 12:00 noon and 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm, Monday thru Friday.



Typical RPBA and RPZA Installation Illustration