

# ASSE Backflow Recertification Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

**Remember:** successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

# How to Use This Guide

**This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:**

## **1. Start with a Diagnostic Review**

**Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.**

## **2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions**

**Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.**

## **3. Learn from the Explanations**

**After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.**

## **4. Track Your Progress**

**Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.**

## **5. Simulate the Real Exam**

**Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.**

## **6. Repeat and Review**

**Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.**

**There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!**

## Questions

- 1. In facilities using a contaminated auxiliary water supply for fire protection, what is required for the potable water service connection?**
  - A. Atmospheric vacuum breaker**
  - B. Double check valve**
  - C. Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ)**
  - D. Pressure vacuum breaker**
- 2. What type of backflow protection is required for a chemically charged solar heating system with an expansion tank?**
  - A. Single check valve**
  - B. Double check**
  - C. Reduced pressure zone (RPZ)**
  - D. Air gap**
- 3. What must be done with the original signed and tested date test report?**
  - A. Kept on file**
  - B. Sent to the manufacturer**
  - C. Submitted to the water purveyor**
  - D. Posted in public places**
- 4. What is a key factor in determining the appropriate type of backflow prevention device to install?**
  - A. Degree of hazard**
  - B. Type of water used**
  - C. Location of the installation**
  - D. Cost of the device**
- 5. What safety feature is crucial in preventing backflow in systems with potentially hazardous potable water?**
  - A. Shutoff valves**
  - B. Air gap**
  - C. Check valves**
  - D. Atmospheric vacuum breakers**

- 6. Which test cocks must be open to test the differential pressure drop across check valve number one on a double check?**
- A. 1 and 2**
  - B. 1 and 3**
  - C. 2 and 3**
  - D. 2 and 4**
- 7. On an approved pressure vacuum breaker assembly, where are the shut off valves located?**
- A. At the inlet and outlet of all assemblies**
  - B. Only at the inlet**
  - C. On the outlet side only**
  - D. Near the test cock**
- 8. What is the standard pressure exerted at one foot of water column?**
- A. 0.43 psi**
  - B. 0.62 psi**
  - C. 0.31 psi**
  - D. 0.87 psi**
- 9. What is the most common Backflow prevention device installed at a residential meter?**
- A. Dual check**
  - B. Air gap**
  - C. RPZ**
  - D. Double check**
- 10. What is the function of test cocks in backflow prevention assemblies?**
- A. Regulate pressure**
  - B. Provide access for testing**
  - C. Control water flow**
  - D. Prevent leaks**



## **Answers**

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1. C
2. C
3. C
4. A
5. B
6. C
7. A
8. A
9. A
10. B

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## **Explanations**

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**1. In facilities using a contaminated auxiliary water supply for fire protection, what is required for the potable water service connection?**

- A. Atmospheric vacuum breaker**
- B. Double check valve**
- C. Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ)**
- D. Pressure vacuum breaker**

In facilities that utilize a contaminated auxiliary water supply for fire protection, the connection to the potable water service needs to be safeguarded to prevent any potential backflow contamination. The use of a Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ) assembly is specifically designed for this purpose. An RPZ consists of two check valves with a pressure differential relief valve located between them. This configuration not only prevents the backflow of contaminated water into the potable system but also maintains a constant pressure difference, which allows for automatic relief of any backpressure or backsiphonage conditions that might occur. This is essential in scenarios where there is a risk of contamination from an auxiliary water supply, as the RPZ effectively mitigates the dangers associated with varying pressure conditions, ensuring that potable water remains uncontaminated. The other options, while they may provide some level of protection, do not offer the comprehensive safety features of an RPZ in the context of backflow prevention where contaminated water supplies are involved. For example, an atmospheric vacuum breaker operates effectively in preventing back siphonage but not under continuous pressure conditions, and a double check valve may not provide sufficient protection against backpressure. Therefore, the use of a Reduced Pressure Zone assembly is the only option that meets the stringent requirements for protecting potable

**2. What type of backflow protection is required for a chemically charged solar heating system with an expansion tank?**

- A. Single check valve**
- B. Double check**
- C. Reduced pressure zone (RPZ)**
- D. Air gap**

In a chemically charged solar heating system with an expansion tank, the requirement for backflow protection is particularly stringent due to the potential hazards associated with the chemicals used. The most appropriate protection method in this situation is a Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ) assembly. RPZ assemblies are designed to protect potable water supplies from contamination due to backflow. They are especially suitable for high-hazard applications, like chemically charged systems, where there is a risk of harmful substances entering the drinking water supply. The design of an RPZ includes two check valves and a pressure differential relief valve, which ensures that if the pressure in the system drops below a certain level, any backflow that may occur is safely released into a designated drainage area, preventing contamination of the drinking water. Additionally, the RPZ provides a higher level of reassurance against backflow than other options such as single check valves or double check valves. While those options may be acceptable in lower-risk situations, they do not provide the same level of protection as RPZ assemblies when dealing with potentially hazardous substances. Overall, the requirement for an RPZ in chemically charged solar heating systems reflects the necessity for robust safety measures in protecting public health and the integrity of the water supply.

**3. What must be done with the original signed and tested date test report?**

- A. Kept on file**
- B. Sent to the manufacturer**
- C. Submitted to the water purveyor**
- D. Posted in public places**

The correct answer involves submitting the original signed and tested date test report to the water purveyor. This procedure is critical in the backflow prevention process as it ensures that the results of the backflow testing are officially documented and communicated to the appropriate regulatory authority responsible for overseeing water safety in a community. The water purveyor utilizes this information to maintain accurate records, monitor compliance with local and national water safety standards, and ensure that any necessary maintenance or corrective actions are taken promptly. By submitting the report, it helps keep the water supply safe from potential contamination due to backflow incidents. Maintaining a communication channel with the water purveyor is essential for ensuring that the water system remains protected, particularly in areas where backflow prevention is necessary. This step is a key part of the overall management of backflow prevention systems and reflects the collaborative responsibility to uphold water quality standards. In contrast, while keeping the original report on file is important for personal records and may be relevant for other stakeholders, the primary official action required is to submit it to the water purveyor. The other options, such as sending it to the manufacturer or posting it in public places, do not align with standard procedures and regulations regarding the management of test reports for backflow prevention devices.

**4. What is a key factor in determining the appropriate type of backflow prevention device to install?**

- A. Degree of hazard**
- B. Type of water used**
- C. Location of the installation**
- D. Cost of the device**

The degree of hazard is a fundamental factor in determining the appropriate type of backflow prevention device to install because it directly evaluates the potential risk of contamination to the clean water supply. Different situations present varying levels of risk, ranging from low to high hazards. For instance, residential drinking water systems typically require devices suitable for low to moderate hazards, while industrial applications with potential toxic substances necessitate more robust protection, such as high-hazard backflow preventers. Choosing the right device based on the degree of hazard ensures that the appropriate measures are in place to protect public health and maintain the integrity of the water supply system. This assessment takes precedence because it helps in complying with local plumbing codes and regulations, which are often influenced by the risk associated with backflow prevention. While other factors like the type of water used, location of the installation, and cost of the device are also important considerations, they are secondary to understanding the level of hazard presented by the specific application. Addressing the hazard adequately ensures that the chosen device functions effectively in preventing backflow and safeguarding against contamination.

**5. What safety feature is crucial in preventing backflow in systems with potentially hazardous potable water?**

- A. Shutoff valves**
- B. Air gap**
- C. Check valves**
- D. Atmospheric vacuum breakers**

The air gap is a crucial safety feature in preventing backflow in systems with potentially hazardous potable water because it provides a physical separation between the water supply and any contaminants. An air gap is created when there is a vertical distance between the outlet of a water supply line and the flooding level of the receiving vessel. This separation ensures that, in the event of a backflow situation, contaminated water cannot siphon back into the potable water supply. The effectiveness of the air gap lies in its simplicity and reliability; it does not rely on mechanical parts that could fail. This makes it particularly advantageous in scenarios where the risk of contamination is high, such as in plumbing fixtures or equipment that may handle waste or non-potable substances. By maintaining this gap, the system is safeguarded against the accidental introduction of harmful substances into drinking water, making it a fundamental requirement for protecting public health. Understanding the air gap's role and maintaining it properly is essential for anyone involved in plumbing and backflow prevention to ensure the safety and quality of potable water supplies.

**6. Which test cocks must be open to test the differential pressure drop across check valve number one on a double check?**

- A. 1 and 2**
- B. 1 and 3**
- C. 2 and 3**
- D. 2 and 4**

To test the differential pressure drop across the first check valve on a double check assembly, it's essential to leverage the appropriate test cocks. In this scenario, test cocks two and three are the ones that need to be open. The double-check valve assembly consists of two check valves and test cocks connected to each. When testing the pressure drop across the first check valve, you strategically open test cock two (downstream of the first check valve) to measure the pressure downstream of the valve and test cock three (upstream of the first check valve) to measure the pressure upstream. By doing this, you can accurately calculate the differential pressure across the first check valve, which is critical for determining its operational efficacy. Opening test cock one is unnecessary in this case because it is positioned upstream of the first check valve, while test cock four relates to the second check valve. Therefore, using the correct combination of test cocks allows for a precise assessment of the check valve's performance, enabling potential issues to be identified effectively.

**7. On an approved pressure vacuum breaker assembly, where are the shut off valves located?**

**A. At the inlet and outlet of all assemblies**

**B. Only at the inlet**

**C. On the outlet side only**

**D. Near the test cock**

The placement of shutoff valves in an approved pressure vacuum breaker assembly serves crucial operational and maintenance functions. Having shutoff valves at both the inlet and outlet of all assemblies allows for effective isolation of the assembly during testing or repair without disrupting the entire water supply system. This design feature is essential for ensuring that the backflow prevention mechanism can be maintained or replaced while minimizing service interruptions. Including shutoff valves at both locations also helps maintain pressure and prevents contamination from entering the potable water supply during maintenance activities, which aligns with backflow prevention regulations and best practices in cross-connection control. The presence of these valves ensures that the assembly can be tested appropriately, which is a core aspect of ensuring compliance with safety standards. Other options do not provide a comprehensive solution for operational flexibility and safety, as they limit the ability to isolate the assembly effectively for maintenance or repairs. This understanding reinforces the importance of proper installation and adherence to codes concerning backflow prevention systems.

**8. What is the standard pressure exerted at one foot of water column?**

**A. 0.43 psi**

**B. 0.62 psi**

**C. 0.31 psi**

**D. 0.87 psi**

The standard pressure exerted at one foot of water column is 0.43 psi. This value arises from the relationship between the height of a water column and the pressure it exerts due to gravity. Specifically, at sea level, the weight of water creates this pressure, calculated using the density of water and the gravitational acceleration. The pressure exerted by a column of water can be described by the formula:  $\text{Pressure (psi)} = \text{Height (ft)} \times 0.433 \text{ (psi/ft)}$ . For one foot of water:  $1 \text{ ft} \times 0.433 \text{ psi/ft} = 0.43 \text{ psi}$ . This conversion factor stems from the fact that the weight of water is approximately 62.4 pounds per cubic foot, and when you divide that by the area (in square feet), it translates into psi. Understanding this relationship is particularly essential in backflow prevention and plumbing work, where measuring and managing pressure is crucial for system integrity and efficiency.

**9. What is the most common Backflow prevention device installed at a residential meter?**

- A. Dual check**
- B. Air gap**
- C. RPZ**
- D. Double check**

The most commonly installed backflow prevention device at a residential meter is the dual check valve. This device is utilized primarily in residential settings for its effectiveness in preventing backflow of non-hazardous substances into the potable water supply. The dual check valve consists of two independently acting check valves that work to prevent reverse flow. If one valve fails, the other provides an additional layer of protection, making it a reliable choice for safeguarding public health. In residential applications, the dual check is often sufficient to prevent backflow because it effectively protects against potential issues without requiring the more complex and expensive devices suited for higher risk situations. While options such as the air gap and reduced pressure zone (RPZ) devices offer superior protection and are used in more critical applications, they are typically not necessary for standard residential water systems. The double check valve, although alternative, is less common compared to the dual check in residential settings due to similar but often less-efficient performance.

**10. What is the function of test cocks in backflow prevention assemblies?**

- A. Regulate pressure**
- B. Provide access for testing**
- C. Control water flow**
- D. Prevent leaks**

Test cocks in backflow prevention assemblies serve the essential function of providing access for testing the performance and integrity of the backflow prevention device. These small, usually threaded openings allow for the connection of testing equipment, enabling professionals to measure pressures and flow rates to ensure that the assembly is functioning correctly and effectively preventing backflow. Regular testing through these access points helps in the early detection of potential failures or malfunctions, ensuring the safety of the water supply. The other options may imply roles that backflow prevention assemblies play; however, they misrepresent the specific purpose of test cocks. Regulating pressure and controlling water flow are functions handled by other components of the backflow assembly itself. While preventing leaks is a vital attribute of the assembly as a whole, test cocks specifically do not play a role in leak prevention. Their primary intention is strictly to facilitate the necessary testing to uphold the reliability of the backflow prevention system.



## Next Steps

**Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.**

**As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.**

**If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at [hello@examzify.com](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://assebackflowrecert.examzify.com>**

**We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!**