

Air Gap (AG)

Description (AG). An approved air gap is the unobstructed vertical distance through free atmosphere between the lowest point of a water supply outlet and the flood level rim of the fixture or assembly into which the outlet discharges. These vertical, physical separations must be at least twice the diameter of the water supply outlet, but never less than 1 in. (25 mm). **APPROVED STANDARDS (Air-Gap): shall conform to ANSI/ASME standard A112.1.2-1991. Ref. 62-555.360 (6) F.A.C.**

In theory, a well-designed and properly maintained air gap is the best means available for protection against backflow. An approved air gap is not always practical and is vulnerable to bypass arrangements, which nullify its effectiveness. Air gaps are included in the annual testing and inspection program for backflow assemblies to make sure that infractions do not occur.

Application (AG). The only absolute means to eliminate backflow is through the use of an approved air gap. Although an air gap is considered the maximum protection available, it does not guarantee continuous protection because the air gap can be bypassed. The application of an air gap, rather than a reduced pressure principle backflow prevention assembly, depends on the requirements of Orange County Utilities Department and on the assessment of the probability of the air gap being bypassed.

CAUTION: The air gap represents the easiest method or situation subject to modification to a cross connection.

