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[Forward to a Friend](#)

Issue 7 - Winter 2015

BATalk - is an electronic newsletter sharing important certification program information with Washington's Backflow Assembly Testers (BAT).

IMPORTANT UPDATE

ARE YOU COMPLYING WITH THE "LEAD-FREE" RULE?

The federal Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act that went into effect in January 2014 requires all water systems that provide water for human consumption to use materials, devices, and components that meet the new lead free requirement. Washington State Department of Health has developed a guidance document, The Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act (331-473), to help you understand the new requirement.

If repairs to backflow assemblies involve replacing parts that contact potable water, the replacement parts must meet the new lead free standard.

The Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research at the University of Southern California worked with backflow assembly manufacturers to develop a

[list of lead free replacement parts](#) available from each of the participating manufacturers.

CHECK YOUR EMAIL FOR EXAMINATION CONFIRMATION

NEW

Starting in January applicants approved for a Backflow Assembly Tester (BAT) practical examination will receive confirmation and an appointment time via email, usually within two business days after the application deadline date. In the past it could take up to a week to receive confirmation by regular mail. The electronic confirmation format will also provide links to helpful online information such as directions to the facility, examination procedures, and study references.

Applications received without an email address are considered incomplete and may be returned, delaying your enrollment. Make sure the email address you provide on your examination application is accurate and legible, and add batnews@greenriver.edu to your safe sender list.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR BAT CERTIFICATION

Certified BATs must pay an annual fee to renew their certificates. **Renewal notices** for 2015 were mailed in November to all BATs certified in Washington. A reminder notice was also emailed to BATs with a valid email address on record.

The final renewal notice payment must be postmarked by February 28, 2015. Certificates of BATs that do not renew by the final deadline date will be invalid and nonrenewable. To become certified again you will have to apply for and pass both parts of the BAT certification examination.

January 21, 2015 was the postmark deadline for the first renewal payment of \$42. BATs that did not meet the first deadline will receive a final notice at the end of January that includes a late fee.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION ONLINE

NEW

Are you a certified BATs that has recently moved, changed your phone number, or set up a new email address? If so, you can submit these changes using the new **online form**. Make sure you

always receive important information from Washington Certification Services (WCS) and Department of Health about your certification by notifying WCS of any changes to your contact information.

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH DEADLINE IN LESS THAN A YEAR

The professional growth deadline is December 31, 2015 for BATs certified before January 1, 2013. Two years of the current reporting period have already passed and less than one year is left for most BATs to meet the requirement. Check your [certification and professional growth status online](#) and [apply](#) for your professional growth examination now!

*Are you one of the 80% of BATs with a 2015 deadline that have not passed the professional growth examination yet?
Why wait?*

If you were certified after January 1, 2013 you have until December 31, 2018 to meet the requirement for the first time, but **there is still no need to wait**. You can meet your requirement ANY TIME between now and your 2018 professional growth deadline.

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