



Reclaimed Water

Emerald Coast Utilities Authority



RECLAIMED WATER IS
HIGHLY TREATED
EFFLUENT FROM A
DOMESTIC WASTE-
WATER TREATMENT
PLANT THAT CAN BE
USED FOR IRRIGATION
AND OTHER USES, TO
EXTEND OUR WATER
SUPPLIES.

Why Reclaimed Water?

Using reclaimed water conserves drinking water supplies, is an environmentally sound alternative for treated wastewater disposal, and provides essential nutrients to lawns, making it ideal for irrigation purposes. Reclaimed water is an integral part of sound resource management and environmental protection efforts in our community.

Is Reclaimed Water Safe?

Yes! The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has established strict water quality and control standards to ensure that the public's health and safety are protected. These standards require high levels of treatment, including filtration and disinfection, and continuous monitoring of water quality.

ECUA continuously monitors reclaimed water prior to discharge for chlorine residual and turbidity, to ensure that proper disinfection has taken place. If these requirements are not met, the water is not discharged to the reuse system. It is recycled through the treatment process until it meets proper reclaimed water quality standards.

Special Considerations

THINK PURPLE! - All new pipelines that ECUA constructs to deliver reclaimed water will be purple or will have special purple tape or markings.

SIGNS - For all reclaimed systems, appropriate advisory signs should be posted around the site to designate the spraying of reclaimed water. This can be done by notes on scorecards or other methods. Typically these are placed at entrances to residential neighborhoods where reclaimed water is being used or at a golf course on the 1st and 10th tees. Signs are required to include the words Do not drink where the general public will have access.

CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL - Connection of the reclaimed water system with drinking water or sewer systems is prohibited. The purple color-coding should help you identify the County's reclaimed water pipe.

OTHER PROHIBITIONS- Reclaimed water cannot be used for human or animal consumption, inside dwellings for any purpose, to fill swimming pools and spas, for vehicle washing or to cool residential air-conditioning systems.

Reclaimed Water FAQs

What Can Reclaimed Water be Used For?

- Irrigation of lawns, landscapes, and golf courses
- Street-sweeping operations
- Car and bus washing
- Power generation
- Decorative fountains
- Fire protection (purple fire hydrants)
- Dust control
- Groundwater recharge
- Cooling or makeup water for a variety of industrial processes
- Natural system restoration

What Can't Reclaimed Water be Used For?

- Body-contact recreation (including swimming pools and spas)
- Cooking or drinking (do not connect house pipes to the purple pipe)
- Irrigating vegetable and herb gardens (unless a drip or bubbler system is used) Irrigation of edible crops is allowed as long as they are skinned, cooked, or thermally processed before consumption.



For More Information on
ECUA's Reuse Water Program Please Contact
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Are Reclaimed Water and Drinking Water Systems Isolated?

Yes! Reclaimed water is delivered to end users through an underground distribution system that is entirely separate from the drinking water system. ECUA has an approved cross-connection control program in place to reduce the likelihood of a cross-connection.

What Are the Benefits of Reclaimed Water?

- It is an alternative water source for irrigation
- It is an ideal alternative source of water for many industrial applications
- It reduces the cost of landscape irrigation

Customer Service: 476-0480 • www.ecua.fl.gov • customer.service@ecua.fl.gov
• After-hours Emergency Calls: 476-5110