



# Class A Recycled Water And Your Home







## Frequently Asked Questions

### Use recycled water for:

-  toilet flushing
-  car washing on grassed areas
-  lawn and garden watering including fruit and vegetable plants
-  filling water features such as ponds and fountains
-  washing machines (for houses built after January 2015)
-  washing and feeding pets
-  cleaning outside areas including furniture
-  fighting fires



### Do not use recycled water for:

-  drinking
-  cooking or food preparation
-  bathing or showering (including sanitary sprays and bidets)
-  filling swimming pools or spas
-  filling water toys
-  operating evaporative cooling systems



### What are the benefits of recycled water?

By using recycled water you:

- can save money because recycled water is charged at the lowest water block rate no matter how much you use
- will have a secure source of water that is not subject to Permanent Water Saving Rules so you can keep your garden lush and green all year round
- are making a positive contribution to the environment by reducing our reliance on precious drinking water supplies.

### What should I do if I accidentally drink recycled water?

If you accidentally drink recycled water, there is no cause for alarm. It is treated to a high standard, meaning the likelihood of falling ill is low. However, if you feel unwell you should consult your doctor.

### What quality controls are in place for recycled water?

Similar to drinking water, water quality testing of recycled water will be conducted on a regular basis. We check the plumbing at each house before and after supply commences and a selection of houses each year. We also regularly audit local plumbers to ensure recycled water connections are fitted according to Victorian Building Authority regulations and carry out inspections during the construction of your home.

### How is recycled water produced and supplied?

Recycled water is produced at Melbourne Water's Western Treatment Plant where it undergoes a very high level of treatment to become Class A recycled water. The recycled water then undergoes further treatment to reduce the salt level at our West Werribee facility so that it will suit most types of plants and the soil conditions in the area.

Following treatment, recycled water is supplied through a separate purple meter, purple pipes and fittings to toilets, external taps and in many cases, your laundry.

### I have a purple tap – will I get recycled water?

Households in the Manor Lakes, Riverwalk, Jubilee, Bluestone Green and Harpley estates will receive water in the first phase of supply in 2016. Further estates will be brought online over the coming years as the pipelines are extended from the West Werribee facility to newly developed housing estates. This will mean, as residents move into their newly constructed property, recycled water will be available.

Public amenities such as parks and open spaces, fountains and ornamental ponds will also benefit from the use of recycled water.

### What are my responsibilities as a customer?

City West Water will initially supply customers with a sign for their purple tap advising it is recycled water and unsafe for drinking purposes. It is the customer's responsibility to maintain the signage and ensure it is legible. These signs can be purchased at your local hardware store.

Although recycled water is not currently subject to Permanent Water Saving Rules, it is still a valuable resource and should be used wisely.

To reduce the risk of a cross connection between your recycled and drinking water pipes, you should always obtain approval from City West Water prior to carrying out any plumbing works and always use a licensed plumber. We also recommend you conduct your own internal plumbing check once a year.

### Will there be additional costs on my bill?

Recycled water usage will be charged the same as the cheapest level of drinking water. You will also see a recycled water service charge on your bill which covers the cost of the additional infrastructure required to supply the recycled water.



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