

Water Reuse

Reclaimed water is highly treated wastewater that can be used for irrigation and other purposes to extend our water supplies.

Up to 50 percent of a community's drinking water is used for irrigation. Much of this irrigation water could be replaced with reclaimed water that is provided by water reclamation facilities and delivered in purple-colored pipes.

History

For nearly 100 years, highly treated reclaimed water has safely been used in the United States. In Florida, more than 650 million gallons per day of reclaimed water is used by 280,000 residential irrigation customers, 525 golf courses, 875 parks and 320 schools.

Benefits of water reuse

- Costs less than drinking water
- Reduces fertilizer use, as nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus remain in the reclaimed water
- Reduces stress on drinking water supplies
- Reduces disposal into water bodies, which can help reduce nutrients in bays and rivers

Reclaimed water can be used for

- Irrigation of lawns, landscapes and golf courses
- Street-sweeping operations
- Decorative fountains
- Dust control
- Groundwater recharge
- Cooling or for a variety of industrial processes
- Natural systems restoration



It's a sign, Florida!

Reclaimed water can't 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 (remember to always wash produce, regardless of water source)
- DEP 62.610- Reuse of reclaimed water and land applications. Irrigation of edible crops that can be peeled, skinned or thermally processed before consumption is allowed. All others must be irrigated indirectly.

The wastewater-to-reclaimed water process

- Screening and other processes to remove sand and debris
- Sedimentation to remove large solids
- Aeration so that microorganisms can break down organic materials
- Clarification to remove microorganisms and any remaining solids
- Filtration to make water crystal clear
- Disinfection with chlorine to kill pathogens and bacteria

Water reuse facilities are constantly monitored to ensure that only high-quality reclaimed water is distributed. This water is sparkling clear and essentially pathogen-free. Decades of experience have demonstrated that the use of reclaimed water in urban, commercial and agricultural settings is both a safe and reliable source of water.

For more information please contact Public Utilities at 562-4960, ext. 7226 or visit myclearwater.com.

