



SUMMARY GUIDE TO RECYCLED WATER USE WESTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

This guide answers some basic questions about getting and using recycled water. Western's Recycled Water Staff will be available to answer questions and lead you through the process of getting a system ready to deliver recycled water to your site. After your system has been approved and recycled water is flowing to your site, we will continue to inspect and monitor the system to ensure continued appropriate use of recycled water.

The use of recycled water is governed by several regulatory agencies. The Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW) are the main governing agencies. Western also has Rules and Regulations regarding the use of recycled water that are specific to its customers. These State regulatory requirements and Western's rules form the umbrella under which the recycled water program functions. These principles are in place to ensure the safe and efficient use of a valuable resource, recycled water.

What is recycled water and where can I use it?

Western provides recycled water that is treated to tertiary standards that are set by the California DDW. Recycled water is virtually colorless and odorless, and is allowable for full-body human contact but **not** for direct human consumption. The sensible use of recycled water is an excellent choice for essentially all non-potable applications. Western will review your proposed use with you to determine if it is a viable use of recycled water.

Recycled water must also only be used on the specific property with recycled water use approval. A User can not give or sell recycle water to anyone else.

Recycled water will not be available throughout the District. You should talk with a Western staff member to find out if your location is eligible to receive recycled water.

What controls are in place to make sure it is safe to use?

Testing is routinely performed at the treatment plant, with regulatory oversight, to make sure treatment is functioning properly so that the recycled water delivered to you meets regulatory requirements. Western also will perform regular inspections of the sites that use recycled water.

ALLOWABLE USES FOR TERTIARY-TREATED WATER PER TITLE 22

Urban Landscape – Parks and playgrounds, schoolyards, unrestricted access golf courses, residential landscaping, freeway and roadway landscaping, Cemeteries, ornamental nurseries, sod farms.

Agriculture – Food crops for human consumption, orchards, vineyards, fodder, fiber and seed crops, non-fruit bearing trees, and pasture for milking animals.

Impoundments – Restricted and unrestricted (full-body contact) recreational impoundments, decorative lakes and fountains, fish hatcheries.

Industrial – Industrial processes (e.g., paper manufacturing, carpet and textile dyeing, boiler feed), cooling towers and air conditioning, non-residential toilet, urinal and floor drains, structural and non-structural fire fighting, commercial laundries, commercial car washes, concrete mixing, construction (dust control, soil compaction, backfill consolidation around pipelines, including potable), street and sidewalk cleaning, flushing sanitary sewers, snow making.

A Site Supervisor, chosen by the property owner, will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the recycled water system on the use site. Training will be required for both the Site Supervisor and other workers that may contact recycled water such that they understand the requirements for proper use and control of recycled water.

If the location where you want to use recycled water has potable water, additional measures are required to be sure that the piping for the different water sources are not interconnected in any way. This ensures that potable water quality is not compromised for you or the rest of the potable water system. Inspections and testing will be performed before recycled water is provided to the site and on a regularly scheduled basis to make sure no interconnections have been made.

What do I need to do to prepare for recycled water use?

Western personnel will be available to guide you through the process. We will need to understand the proposed use of the recycled water and your site conditions. If the site location and use are a fit to Western's system and use requirements, plans can be started to install a recycled water system or modify an existing system at your location. The general steps to prepare a location for recycled water use include:

- Initial Steps
 - Complete Application for Recycled Water Service
 - Contact Western to Schedule and Conduct a Preliminary Site Inspection
 - Complete User's Agreement
- Design and Installation
 - Have an Engineer/Architect Prepare Site Plans
 - For a Location with Existing Piping, Provide Western with the As-Built Plans and Prepare a Plan to Bring the Site into Compliance with Recycled Water Use Requirements with Western's Help
 - Complete Plan Approval through Western's Plan Check Process
 - Construct/Modify On Site System per Plans
 - Ensure there are No Hose Bibbs on the Recycled Water System, only Quick Couplers are Allowable
 - Provide information for the Engineering Report to Western for submittal to the DDW
 - Install Site Signage and Labels
- Personnel Training and System Checkout
 - Designate Site Supervisor
 - Complete Site Supervisor and Worker Training
 - Conduct Cross Connection Test
 - Complete Construction and Start-up Inspections

What steps do I need to take to use recycled water safely?

The safe use of recycled water requires some simple practices to protect both you and others that may be in the recycled water use area. A few of these practices include:

- Regularly check the recycled water irrigation system to identify leaks, overspray, etc

- Don't allow recycled water to run off from the use area
 - Water at rates that meet the requirements of your plants and soil, no more
 - Don't water when it is raining
 - Don't water when it is windy
 - Make sure your sprinklers are properly adjusted
 - Make repairs immediately to any broken sprinklers or pipes
 - Use a centralized sprinkler control system, preferably weather-based or with moisture sensors, to control the watering cycles
- Water when the area won't be used by the public and there is sufficient time for dry-out (during the night)
- Ensure On-going Operations Meet Recycled Water Use Requirements
- Conduct Periodic Cross Connection Test (Generally every 4 years)
- Participate in Annual Site Inspections
- Provide Information for Annual Reports
- Get Prior Approval from Western for Any Modifications to On-site System or Operations
- Notify Western of Changes to your Site Supervisor
- Notify Western if you Violate any of the Rules and Regulation for Recycled Water Use

Required Recycled Use Practices

Do's

- **Install and maintain signs at all points of entry (pedestrian and vehicular)**
- **Install and maintain labels and tags on recycled and potable water systems**
- **Operate irrigation system:**
 - **Generally between 10 PM–6 AM (unless other restrictions apply)**
 - **At other times if manually controlled and supervised (someone present) to make sure the recycled water doesn't come in contact with the public**
- **Use quick couplers instead of hose bibbs**
- **Contact Western if any water system (potable or recycled) modifications are anticipated**
- **Immediately contact Western if any of the following has occurred:**
 - **A recycled water line break, spill, or off-site discharge of recycled water**
 - **A violation of water recycling requirements**
 - **A cross connection between the recycled and potable water systems**
- **Educate/train site workers on safe use and restrictions of recycled water**
- **Keep records and as-built drawings up-to-date and accessible**
- **Assist and cooperate during Site Inspections**
- **Assist and cooperate during Cross Connection Testing**

Don'ts

- **Don't allow drinking of recycled water**
- **Don't allow use of recycled water to wash hands or any other part of body**
- **Don't allow removal of recycled water identification signs, tags or labels**
- **Don't allow cross connection of two dissimilar water systems (recycled to potable)**
- **Don't allow recycled water to contact drinking fountains or eating areas**
- **Don't allow recycled water to pond or puddle**
- **Don't allow recycled water to runoff the use site by either overspray or overwatering**
- **Don't allow use of recycled water on an unapproved site**
- **Don't allow hose bibbs on recycled water systems**
- **Don't allow use of the same equipment on both recycled water and domestic water systems (for example, hoses, quick couplers, etc.)**
- **Don't allow modification of any water system without prior approval of Western**

What happens if I don't follow the rules from Western or the Regulatory Agencies?

Western will enforce all existing regulations concerning the use of recycled water and/or recycled water systems. Western will provide you with a set of Rules and Regulations concerning the use of any recycled water for your review. Western can revoke approval if the user/use site no longer conforms to any service condition.

Western will determine if a violation has occurred. Violations may include: cross connections, runoff, ponding, windblown spray, leaks or spills resulting from broken or damaged pipelines or appurtenances, unapproved uses, disposal in unapproved areas, failure to maintain equipment and identification devices (tags, signs, etc), unprotected drinking fountains and unauthorized or prohibited use of hose bibbs, whether willful or by accident.

If Western's investigation reveals that a violation has occurred, we will immediately notify the User of the violation work with them to complete any corrective actions. If Western believes the violation constitutes an actual or potential hazard to public health, Western will immediately discontinue recycled water service to the User. Further, it will be at Western's sole discretion to determine if a violation has been adequately corrected.

