Residential Recycled Water Household Guide
Why use recycled water?

The use of recycled water in new residential developments is increasing in Australia as we become more water efficient. By using recycled and alternate water supplies we are reducing the stress on our traditional drinking water sources including the River Murray and groundwater.

In response to the impacts of the drought and climate change, there is an increased demand for recycled water. Supply is also driven by the State Government’s overarching water policy and changing expectations and demands of the South Australian community.

By treating wastewater or stormwater and delivering it through a separate pipe system (network), we can reuse water - helping the environment.

Currently an average South Australian household will use about 40% of its water outdoors. By treating wastewater to an appropriate standard for its use and delivering it to houses through a separate purple pipe system, we are able to use recycled water outdoors on gardens, for washing cars and for flushing toilets. This in turn benefits the environment by reducing our demand for drinking water and reducing the amount of treated wastewater discharged to sea.
Is recycled water safe?

Recycled water is wastewater treated to an appropriate standard for its use. In some areas, this may also include treated stormwater.

It is vital any work undertaken on any of your pipework is handled by a licensed plumber. There are potential health risks associated with the cross connection of the drinking water and recycled water supplies - that is, if recycled water is coming out of your drinking water taps.

All recycled pipework and outlets are clearly identified - with a distinctive purple colour. This is to help ensure the recycled water service can’t be accidentally interconnected to the drinking water supply on your property.

While recycled water is treated to a standard fit for its intended purpose - in this case flushing toilets and garden watering - it’s important to remember it’s not treated to drinking water standards.

The Department of Health approves the use of recycled water and these uses may change from time to time. Visit www.sawater.com.au for the most up to date information.
What can recycled water be used for?

**Recycled water for residential allotments can be used for:**

- Watering lawns, parks and gardens
- Flushing toilets
- Washing cars
- Filling ornamental ponds (with no fish) and water features
- Watering your garden including fruit trees, vegetables and flowers
- Washing pets
- Evaporative coolers and air conditioners
- **Note:** no matter what water source is used, ensure any bleed off does not enter rainwater tanks or drinking water systems

**Recycled water must not be used for:**

- Drinking
- Cooking (or other kitchen purposes such as rinsing vegetables)
- Personal washing or teeth cleaning (such as baths, showers, hand basins or bidet)
- Indoor cleaning
- Swimming pools and spas
- Recreational activities involving water (including children playing under sprinklers)

1. Before connecting any appliances to recycled water, check with your appliance supplier or manufacturer to ensure suitability.

2. Recycled water has a higher level of nutrients and salinity than drinking water. Take care not to over fertilise your garden and consult your local nursery or garden supplier for expert advice.

3. With 40% of household water use taking place outside, using recycled water is beneficial. However, recycled water is still a precious resource to be used within any watering times applicable.

4. SA Water has many resources available to help you save water - both in and outside your home. In addition, there are many other publications and websites providing a wealth of waterwise garden information.

How will I know if I have recycled water?

A dual water supply area will have a drinking water meter and a recycled water meter.

The recycled water system is distinctive and is coloured purple making it easy to identify. Most importantly, it’s vital to ensure the recycled water supply is not accidentally interconnected with the drinking water supply.

Check for water meters at the front of your property - you should have a drinking water meter and a purple recycled water meter. Please contact us on 1300 884 055 if you do not have these meters.

By flushing the toilet or using a purple tap you will be charged for the recycled water you use. Recycled water charges will be shown on your normal drinking water bills.
It’s your responsibility

Periodically, you will be asked to conduct an audit of your recycled water system or, in some circumstances, SA Water will conduct an audit on your property. This is a simple and quick check to ensure there’s no interconnection of the recycled and drinking water systems.

You will be sent an audit checklist by SA Water or we will contact you. You can download and conduct the audit checklist anytime by visiting www.sawater.com.au

The pipework on your side of both the drinking water meter and the recycled water meter is your responsibility. SA Water is responsible for the pipework on the other side of your meters, and the meters themselves.

If you encounter a problem on your side of the meters, please contact your licensed plumber. If a problem occurs on SA Water’s side of the meter, please contact us on 1300 884 055.
### How you can help

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<tr>
<th>Ensure that recycled water is only used for approved uses.</th>
<th>Conduct regular audits of your recycled water system by using the audit checklist. Visit <a href="http://www.sawater.com.au">www.sawater.com.au</a></th>
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<td>Removing the tap handles of your recycled water supply will prevent people (especially children) from inadvertently accessing recycled water.</td>
<td>It’s the property owner’s responsibility to ensure tenants are aware of the recycled water supply and its correct uses. Additional copies of this brochure are available by calling 1300 650 950 or downloading from <a href="http://www.sawater.com.au">www.sawater.com.au</a></td>
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<td>Any work on the recycled water system, and maintaining and repairing all plumbing on the property on your side of the meter is your responsibility. Contact a licensed plumber.</td>
<td>Do not remove or replace recycled water taps with conventional taps as this increases the risk of misuse of recycled water. Incorrect use of recycled water may be a risk to your health and safety.</td>
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<tr>
<td>It’s important recycled water is not accidentally delivered through your drinking water system.</td>
<td>Ensure all signage identifying recycled water outlets is properly maintained. Replacement signage is available from plumbing suppliers.</td>
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More information
For more information, general and recycled water billing queries, please contact 1300 650 950.

You can also find out more about waterwise gardening, check watering times and request additional copies of this information at www.sawater.com.au

Translation service
SA Water offers a 24-hour interpreting service for customers. Please call 131 450 and ask the operator for the language you require.