

Working with recycled water

Recycled water is available at some construction site many of them in the north-western Sydney. This fact sheet explains safeguards you need to follow if you're working with recycled water.

What is recycled water?

It's water that's been used before in bathrooms, laundries, kitchens and businesses. We clean and purify it so it's safe to use again.

Water quality

We provide high quality recycled water that's safe for its intended use. This water is for drinking.

It meets the relevant national water quality standards and NSW Health requirements.

It looks and smells like drinking water but usually has a slightly higher chlorine and salt content. Its highly unlikely that you'll become ill if you accidentally drink it.

How to tell if recycled water is supplied to a site

It's supplied through pipes that are separate from the drinking water supply. These pipes are labelled and identified by a purple colour or purple plastic sleeving.

Each property supplied with recycled water is provided with a pre-laid service from the recycled water main into the property, terminating at a connection point at the meter.

The property will also have a second water meter that is purple. At least one of the garden taps will have a removable handle. Where a recycled water tap is installed for garden use it will be marked with a warning sign like 'Waning – recycled water – do not drink'.

Some industrial sites may have different plumbing arrangements for their recycled water supply. For example, BlueScope Steel's Port Kembla site use different colour coding for their recycled water pipes and fittings. On site safeguards will be explained during site inductions.

Plumbing standards and requirements

Plumbing work in recycled water areas must be carried out by a licensed plumber and installations must comply with plumbing regulations. Recycled water taps, outlets, valves and fittings must be clearly marked with safety signs.

Alterations, extensions and new recycled water plumbing must be inspected by NSW Fair Trading to check for any cross connections of the drinking water and recycled water supply.

For more information, visit [NSW Fair Trading](#)

Uses

The recycled water supplied by us is not for drinking, washing hands or filling swimming pools. On building sites recycled water may be used for:

- dust suppression
- washing trucks and plant equipment
- watering gardens
- flushing toilets
- filling ornamental ponds.

It's also used in industry and for fighting fires, for irrigating parks and sports fields including many golf courses, in agriculture and for river health.

Working safely

- if recycled water is supplied to your building site make sure everyone on your team knows
- ensure that workers know not to drink it or wash their hands with it
- safety signs must be installed on outlets that use recycled water; the sign must state that it's not for drinking
- if you come in contact with recycled water wash with soap and rinse with drinking water.

Where you'll find recycled water

We have 14 water recycling plants and many water schemes. There's also a growing number of private operated projects. Tradespeople are likely to encounter residential schemes.

The biggest is the Rouse Hill Recycled Water Scheme in Sydney's north-west. You'll find it in suburbs such as:

- Acacia Gardens
- Beaumont Hills
- Castle Hill
- Glenwood
- Kellyville and Kellyville Ridge
- Parklea
- Quakers Hill
- Rouse Hill
- Stanhope Gardens

- The Ponds

The Sydney Olympic Park Authority's (SOPA) Water Reclamation and Management Scheme was built for the Sydney 2000 Olympics. It now serves thousand of homes at Newington and commercial properties in the Olympic Park. As this scheme has different approved recycled water uses visit [SOPA](#) for more information.

BlueScope Steels water recycling scheme at Port Kembla is one of Australia's largest. Another major industrial and irrigation scheme built and run by private sector began operating in the Rosehill and Smithfield areas.

Responsibilities

We supply recycled water to agreed standards and maintains recycled water pipes in the street to the water meter, or up to one meter inside the property boundary.

NSW Fair Trading is responsible for plumbing regulations and inspection of plumbing installations within a property.

Customers and users of recycled water are responsible for using it as advised by us.