

Using recycled water around your home in the Rouse Hill area

With your help, we are recycling billions of litres of water every year in Sydney and the Illawarra.

Recycling is one of the four main parts of the plan to secure our water for life – along with dams, desalination and water efficiency.

This fact sheet explains how to use recycled water at home in the Rouse Hill area.

What is recycled water?

Recycled water is water that has been used before in bathrooms, laundries, kitchens and in businesses. Sydney Water cleans and purifies it so it is safe to use again.

We have 14 water recycling plants in Sydney and the Illawarra where we use treatment processes like screening, biological treatment, filtering, ultraviolet radiation and chlorination to produce high quality recycled water.

Stormwater can also be recycled, and is being used in many projects across Sydney.

4x

We are recycling four times as much water as we did in the early 2000s.



Using recycled water helps save precious drinking water.

How do I know if I have recycled water at my home?

- You live in a recycled water suburb in the Rouse Hill area. This includes all or parts of Rouse Hill, Stanhope Gardens, Glenwood, Kellyville, Kellyville Ridge, Parklea, Acacia Gardens, Beaumont Hills, Quakers Hill, The Ponds and Castle Hill.
- You have a second water meter that is purple or lilac.
- At least one of your garden taps is purple or lilac and has a removable handle. It should have a recycled water sign near it.
- Charges for recycled water are included on your water bill.



Recycled water garden taps have a removable handle and need to have a warning sign near them.

Residential water recycling projects in Sydney

Some of the world's longest-established residential water recycling schemes are in Sydney.

The Sydney Olympic Park Authority's Water Reclamation and Management Scheme was built for the Sydney 2000 Olympics. It now serves thousands of homes at Newington and commercial properties across Olympic Park.

Sydney Water's Rouse Hill Recycled Water Scheme started in 2001, and is the largest scheme of its type in the world. It services an area covering 32,000 properties and is still growing.

The number of water recycling projects in the Sydney region is constantly growing. For an up to date list, visit www.metrowater.nsw.gov.au.

Some city office blocks use recycled water from on-site treatment plants. These include Sydney Water's head office at Parramatta and workplaces at Darling Harbour.



Our Rouse Hill treatment plant uses the latest technology to produce high quality recycled water.

Water quality

Sydney Water treats recycled water to a high standard so that it's safe for its intended use.

Our recycled water is treated to a high standard, but it's not for drinking.

Did you know?

There are different types of recycled water. The type that Sydney Water supplies in your area is not for drinking.

In some parts of the world, such as Singapore, very highly treated recycled water is an important part of the drinking water supply.

How to use recycled water

It's great for:

- ✓ watering lawns and gardens, including fruit and vegetable plants
- ✓ flushing toilets
- ✓ washing cars
- ✓ filling ornamental ponds
- ✓ fighting fires
- ✓ washing laundry in a washing machine only.

It must not be used for:

- ✗ drinking or cooking
- ✗ bathing and bidets
- ✗ filling swimming pools and playing
- ✗ under sprinklers
- ✗ cleaning inside the house
- ✗ filling evaporative coolers.



Recycled water is great for washing cars and watering lawns and gardens.

Plumbing

Homes in the Rouse Hill area have recycled water supplied to toilets and at least one garden tap.

Recycled water pipes and fittings, including the water meter and garden tap are purple and are separate from the drinking water system.

The recycled water garden tap will have a removable handle and a warning sign.

Important recycled water rules to remember

- Don't waste recycled water – like drinking water, it's precious.
- Use a licensed plumber for any work on your private water and wastewater services. To know more, call the Department of Fair Trading on 13 32 20.
- Check that the 'not for drinking' sign is in place near your garden tap. Replace the sign if it's missing. Signs are available at most local hardware shops and plumbing suppliers.
- Use the handle on the recycled water tap as supplied. Don't replace it with a conventional handle.
- Recycled water taps have removable handles. Take them off when they are not in use.
- As an extra safeguard, tell children and visitors not to drink from your recycled water taps.
- Ensure that no cross-connections of any kind are made between the recycled and drinking water pipe work. You should have separate hoses for the drinking water and recycled water taps.
- Don't put rubbish, household chemicals, fuels and corrosive or flammable liquids into sinks, toilets or drains. These can harm the environment and cause problems at the water recycling plant. To learn more about household waste management visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au or call 13 15 55.

Watering your garden

- Our high quality recycled water is approved by NSW Health for watering of fruit and vegetables in the Rouse Hill area. Garden produce must be cleaned and washed in cool drinking water immediately before cooking or eating. Scrub fruit and vegetables with hard surfaces (such as rockmelons, oranges, potatoes and carrots) with a clean produce brush. Cut away bruised or damaged areas before eating.
- Recycled water is slightly saltier than drinking water but is within the relevant guidelines for garden watering and irrigation.

Salinity is the amount of salt in water or soil. Soil salinity in some areas of western Sydney may be naturally higher than average.

To help keep soils and gardens healthy it's best to water weekly and deeply, rather than too often.



Good for the environment

- By recycling, we use a resource that may otherwise be wasted.
- Recycled water households in Sydney typically use 30–40% less drinking water than other Sydney homes. This helps to relieve pressure on drinking water supplies.
- Water recycling helps keep treated wastewater and nutrients out of local creeks and rivers.
- Excess nutrients can affect the health of waterways.
- The organic materials taken out during the treatment process make great fertiliser. These materials, called 'biosolids', are used in agriculture.



Water recycling helps reduce the amount of nutrients from treated wastewater entering creeks and rivers.

Water Recycling Education Centre and site tours

Sydney Water has a state-of-the-art Water Recycling Education Centre at St Marys, the location of Sydney's largest water recycling scheme. The centre is available to high schools, TAFEs, universities and professional associations for education and training.

Students can tour a working water recycling plant and see how water recycling technology works. They can also learn about the current and future role of recycled water in the urban water cycle.

For bookings and more information or to tour other Sydney Water recycling plants, email tours@sydneywater.com.au or call 1800 724 650.



Students learn about the reverse osmosis treatment process at our St Marys Water Recycling Plant

To know more

Call: 13 20 92

Email: recycledwater@sydneywater.com.au

Visit: sydneywater.com.au

للمزيد من المعلومات يُرجى الاتصال بمصلحة مياه سيدني على الرقم 13 20 92.

索取有關詳情，請致電Sydney Water，電話13 20 92。

Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες παρακαλείστε να τηλεφωνήσετε στο Sydney Water στο 13 20 92.

Per maggiori informazioni, telefonare al Sydney Water al numero 13 20 92.

Muốn biết thêm chi tiết xin vui lòng điện thoại Sydney Water/Sở Thủy Cục Sydney số 13 20 92.

상세한 정보가 필요하시면 Sydney Water, 전화 13 20 90번으로 연락하십시오.

Please keep this guide for future reference.