WATER REUSE

Reclaimed water is highly treated domestic wastewater that can be used for irrigation and other uses 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 reuse facilities and delivered in purple-colored pipes.

Benefits of Water Reuse

⇒ Costs less than drinking water
⇒ Reduces fertilizer use, as some nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus remain in the reclaimed water
⇒ Reduces stress on drinking water supplies
⇒ Reduces disposal into waterways, which can help reduce nutrient loads in bays and rivers

Reclaimed water *can* be used for:

✓ Irrigation of lawns, landscapes, and golf courses
✓ Street-sweeping operations
✓ Car and bus washing
✓ Power generation
✓ Decorative fountains
✓ Fire protection (purple fire hydrants)
✓ Dust control
✓ Groundwater recharge
✓ Cooling or makeup water for a variety of industrial processes
✓ Natural system restoration

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—always wash your produce)

The wastewater-to-reclaimed water process

1. Screening and other processes to remove sand and debris;
2. Sedimentation for removing large solids;
3. Aeration so that microorganisms can break down organic materials;
4. Clarification to remove those microorganisms and any remaining solids;
5. Filtration to make water crystal clear; and
6. Disinfection, with chlorine or UV radiation, for killing 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 has demonstrated that the use of reclaimed water in urban and commercial settings is both a safe and a reliable source of water.

Use it Again, Florida!

Make PURPLE the New GREEN and Join us in the Move to...
Use it Again, Florida!