

## What is Reclaimed Water?

Reclaimed water is the final product of a multiple-stage advanced treatment program that eliminates pathogens (solids, organics and viruses) and retains nitrogen and phosphorus that fertilize ornamental plants and turf grass. This treatment process produces a water product ideal for lawn sprinkling but not suitable for human or animal consumption.

## Is Reclaimed Water Safe?

Yes, reclaimed water is highly treated and disinfected. For unrestricted public access, reclaimed water must meet strict standards of quality established by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Reclaimed water is monitored and tested in St. Johns County to ensure quality standards are met. While it is not suitable for human or animal consumption, incidental physical contact with the water has no negative effects. Therefore, accidental splashing or spraying should not cause alarm.

Please remember that reclaimed water is intended for irrigation and is not for consumption, sanitary, or recreational purposes.



## Watering Schedule

Reclaimed water does not have the same watering restrictions as potable (drinking) water. To maximize the efficiency of the reclaimed water delivery system, it is important not all users irrigate on the same day. The following suggested watering schedule will help ensure the daily supply of reclaimed water corresponds with demand:



*Home Addresses Ending in  
Odd Numbers  
Wednesday and Saturday*



*Home Addresses Ending in  
Even Numbers  
Thursday and Sunday*

**For more information about the watering restrictions, please visit**

[www.floridaswater.com/wateringrestrictions/](http://www.floridaswater.com/wateringrestrictions/)

We invite you to explore the information on the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ website located here: <http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/>

**For more information on the County's Reclaimed Water Program, please contact:  
ReuseQuestions@sjcfl.us**

# St. Johns County Recycled Water

*Preserving Our Resources,  
Protecting Our Future*



## WELCOME TO OUR RECLAIMED WATER SYSTEM

Reclaimed water is a safe and effective alternative to using drinking water for irrigation. The water is treated and disinfected to high standards, contains valuable nutrients for your lawn, and helps protect treasured water resources for a sustainable future.

We hope you are as excited about getting this valuable resource as we are about providing it to you.

**St. Johns County  
Utility Department**  
1205 State Road 16  
St. Augustine, Florida 32084  
904-209-2700  
[www.sjcutility.us](http://www.sjcutility.us)



## Why Reclaimed Water?

The St. Johns County Utility Department (SJCUD) provides safe drinking water to over 100,000 people every



day. As our County continues to grow, it is important to conserve our water resources to ensure adequate water supply for our future.

The County's Integrated Water Resources Plan identifies reclaimed water and conservation programs as cost effective projects to reduce reliance on groundwater. These programs will ensure sustainability for future generations.



Reclaimed water is treated to high standards for safe irrigation. Currently, forty percent of SJCUD's effluent is reused for golf course

irrigation. To continue its conservation efforts, the County is now providing reclaimed water to residential communities. As more than half of all residential water is used on lawns and landscapes, there are many economic and ecological benefits for using reclaimed water for irrigation.

### *Helpful Websites:*

Florida Yards: [www.floridayards.org/](http://www.floridayards.org/)

St. Johns River Water Management District: [www.floridaswater.com/waterconservation/](http://www.floridaswater.com/waterconservation/)

## How do I Landscape with Reclaimed Water?

Good landscaping practices place the right plant in the right location. Occasionally, reclaimed water contains elevated levels of salts that can harm sensitive landscape plants. Florida friendly plants that are salt tolerant and typically grow near our coast benefit most from reclaimed water.



Common landscape plants used in Florida that are especially sensitive to high salt levels and should not be planted in coastal or reclaimed water communities include:

- Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*)
- Dwarf azalea (*Rhododendron* sp)
- Bleeding heart (*Clerodendrum thomsoniae*)
- Passion flower (*Passiflora incarnata*)

To minimize potential problems associated with using reclaimed water, monitor plants for signs of leaf yellowing or wilting. If it persists, consider drip irrigation to avoid direct contact of reclaimed water with plant leaves, or replace plants with salt tolerant species. Proper watering is important, and overwatering can cause harm.

## What are Reclaimed Water Restrictions?

Florida encourages and promotes water conservation and utilizing reclaimed water.

Reclaimed Water Uses **NOT** Permitted:

- No consumption (human or animal).
- No toilet flushing or other household use.
- No inter-connection.
- No sprinkling of edible crops (gardens).
- No use for body-contact recreation.
- No use through hose bibs, faucets, etc.
- No filling of swimming pools.
- No sharing a common reclaimed service or connection between properties.
- No filling of decorative pools or fountains.
- No supplying air cooling systems.
- No washing of cars, boats, driveways, etc.

Visit the Florida Department of Environmental Protection website for additional information regarding reclaimed water use and regulations for the state:



[www.dep.state.fl.us/water/reuse/](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/reuse/)