



HOME & HOSED

Recycled water in the new millennium home

Nine years of drought and reducing rainfall means that Australians cannot afford to waste a single drop of water. Victorians are rising to the challenge and recycled water is now an exciting reality that is being utilized in several new housing developments across Melbourne.

A valuable resource

Almost 500,000 million litres of drinking water is used in Melbourne each year. Many of its uses however do not require drinking water quality. In the domestic setting, toilet flushing, garden watering and other outdoor applications can employ alternative water sources such as recycled water. This means our precious drinking water can be used more efficiently.

Recycled water is a practical alternative and a resource to be valued.

Sustaining our future

South East Water has joined with various developers to supply recycled water into residential developments. This initiative will help us create an environmentally sustainable future for Victoria.

The benefits of recycled water

By using recycled water you can reduce your drinking water usage by approximately 40%. This means money can be saved as recycled water is charged at the lowest drinking water rate.

Recycled water is not subject to Permanent Water Saving Rules* so you can maintain green, lush gardens. It also complies with the 5 star energy rating as a viable alternative to a rainwater tank.

As a user of Class A recycled water, you will be playing a vital role in ensuring Australia's sustainable future whilst significantly reducing the discharge of treated wastewater into oceans and rivers.

* For more information refer to www.southeastwater.com.au



Recycled water is a great alternative

Recycled water is treated to Class A standards, which means it is produced according to strict guidelines developed by the Victorian Environment Protection Authority and the Department of Human Services. It is derived from wastewater and treated in a state of the art treatment facility.

The high standard of recycled water will be ensured through quality assurance systems that include monitoring of the treatment plant. Water quality will also be monitored at several locations along the pipe networks to your home.

Despite its high quality it **is not suitable for personal use.**

DO use recycled water for:

- Flushing toilets
- Watering the garden, including vegetables
- Washing cars, houses (external), outdoor furniture
- Fire fighting
- Use in ornamental ponds and water features. However, water may need to be changed regularly as algae may grow**.

Note: Recycled water is treated to the point where it is safe for contact during watering or sprinkler use.

*** Algae may grow due to the nutrients in the recycled water*

This list is not exhaustive, so if you are unsure as to whether recycled water is suitable for a particular use, use drinking water instead or contact South East Water for more information.

Why we recycle water

Water is not just important for drinking and washing. Insufficient water means we cannot grow adequate food supplies or maintain industry. Recycling has provided us with a new lease of life in our drought stricken climate.

To ensure that recycled water is not confused with drinking water it is delivered through separate pipes. This is called dual reticulation. This means you receive two sources of water, i.e. drinking and recycled water.

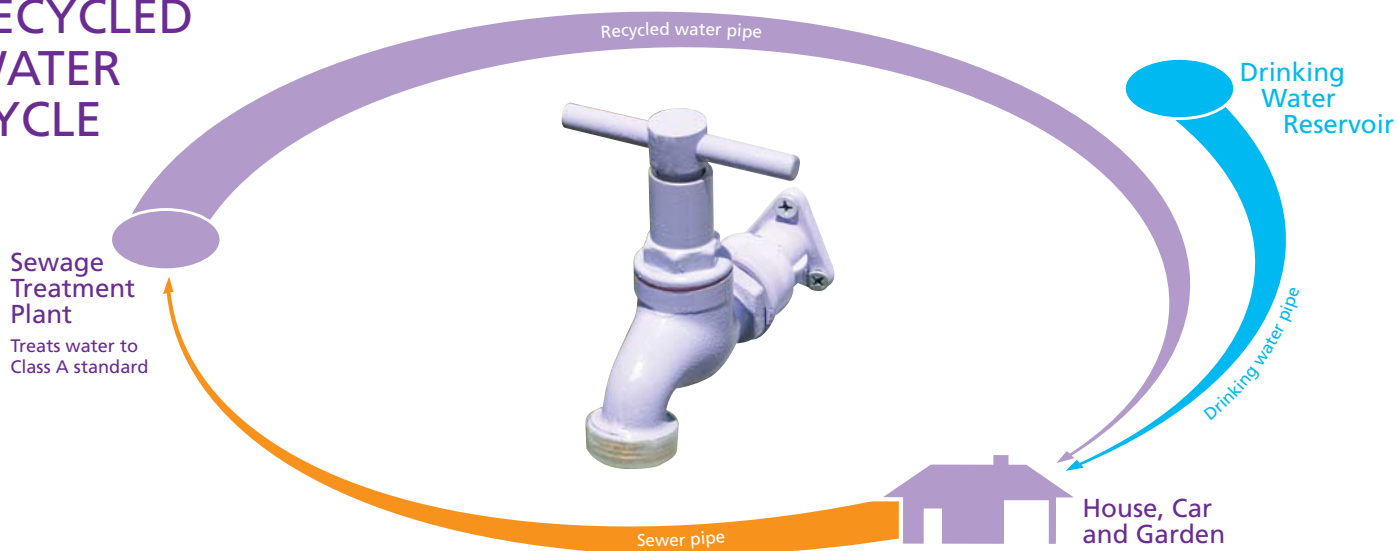
Note: Recycled water taps, pipes and meters are purple to ensure that plumbers and residents do not confuse drinking and recycled water fittings. Their colour must not be changed. Taps are signed – "Recycled water, do not drink".

DON'T use recycled water for personal uses such as:

- Drinking
- Cooking or other kitchen purposes
- Bathing and showering
- Swimming pools and spas
- Evaporative coolers
- Children's water toys

Note: Although Victorian guidelines currently allow for clothes washing, South East Water does not yet permit this use. Therefore houses must not be plumbed for this purpose.

RECYCLED WATER CYCLE



Recycled water is:

- Waste water treated to a very high standard (Class A)
- Suitable for flushing toilets and outdoor use
- Providing a sustainable future for Victoria

tap
into
it.