

## WHAT ARE SOME BENEFITS OF USING RECLAIMED WATER?

Reclaimed water irrigation has fewer restrictions.



Current outdoor irrigation restrictions for reclaimed water and Potable (drinking) water.

Water Resource Management Division  
813-659-4298, Ext. 4903

[plantcitygov.com](http://plantcitygov.com)

Another benefit is cost savings.

Monthly charges for a standard water meter using reclaimed water **are less** than the same size meter using potable (drinking) water.



Reclaimed water is a **more economical** way to irrigate your lawn and landscape and a **less costly** alternative to potable water use in approved agricultural, commercial and industrial applications.

Our environment in Florida and eco-systems around the world benefit from the use of reclaimed water.

*Substituting reclaimed water for drinking water reduces the quantity of water withdrawn from the Floridan Aquifer and drinking water supplies are conserved.*



## RECLAIMED WATER QUESTIONS... WHO DO I CALL?

Plant City's Water Reclamation Facility is operated by highly trained personnel.

Only reclaimed water which meets strict quality standards is made available to reclaimed water customers.

Utilities Operations Division  
(813) 757-9191

## WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

City of Plant City: [plantcitygov.com](http://plantcitygov.com)  
(Water Resource Management Division)

State of Florida:  
[dep.state.fl.us/water/reuse](http://dep.state.fl.us/water/reuse)

**WATER CONSERVATION**  
(813) 659-4298, Ext. 4903

- Current Watering Restrictions
- Florida-Friendly Landscapes
- Water Conservation Programs
- FREE** Garden Hose and Indoor Water Saving Kits

## WATER SAVING WORKSHOPS

Learn to maintain the value of landscaping and conserve water with environmentally responsible concepts.

**UF | UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA**  
**IFAS Extension**

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences  
Hillsborough County

Florida Yards And Neighborhoods Program

5339 County Road 579

Seffner, Florida 33584

813-744-5519

[hillsborough.ifas.ufl.edu](http://hillsborough.ifas.ufl.edu)

# Plant City's Reclaimed Water



**WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

**705 N. ALEXANDER STREET**

**PLANT CITY, FLORIDA 33563**

***plantcitygov.com***

## WHAT IS RECLAIMED WATER...IS IT SAFE?

Reclaimed water is highly treated wastewater generated by the City of Plant City's state-of-the-art Water Reclamation Facility.

The "recycling" process includes high level filtration and disinfection.



Reclaimed water is colorless, odorless and virtually indistinguishable from drinking water.

Physical contact with reclaimed water is not known to have negative effects. Being splashed or sprayed with reclaimed water should not cause reason for concern.

Plant City's Water Reclamation Facility personnel **conduct tests seven days a week, 24 hours a day**, to ensure reclaimed water meets stringent quality standards of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Plant City has produced reclaimed water for landscape irrigation, industrial cooling, agriculture applications and other approved uses since 1997.

RECLAIMED WATER **MAY NOT** BE USED FOR...

- **DRINKING**
- **HOSE CONNECTIONS**
- **FILLING SWIMMING POOLS, WADING POOLS OR HOT TUBS**
- **RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS SQUIRT GUNS AND WATER SLIDES**



## IS RECLAIMED WATER SAFE FOR LAWN AND LANDSCAPE?

Reclaimed water is safe for **most plants**, lawns and landscapes. Certain species of Azaleas and Roses are sensitive to the slightly high

Chloride (salt) content of reclaimed water. **Take care** when watering these plants with reclaimed water.

## IS FOOD IRRIGATED WITH RECLAIMED WATER SAFE TO EAT?

Yes...**ONLY** when food is peeled, skinned, cooked or thermally processed **BEFORE** eating. Consuming food which will not be skinned, peeled, cooked or thermally processed before eating is allowed **ONLY** when an indirect irrigation method is used, such as drip or subsurface distribution.

## ARE RECLAIMED WATER AND DRINKING WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS CONNECTED?

**No.** Plant City's reclaimed water distribution system is entirely separate from the drinking water system.

On all properties where reclaimed water is provided, the public or private potable (drinking) water supply shall be protected by an approved backflow prevention device. **It is the responsibility of the property owner to install an approved backflow prevention device.**

*Systems may co-exist on the same property as long as they **are not cross-connected in any way.***

*Irrigation system piping utilizing reclaimed water **can not be connected to the water piping supplying potable (drinking) water on any property.***

## RECLAIMED WATER (IRRIGATION)



## RECLAIMED WATER AND IRRIGATION WELLS

Where reclaimed water is available, any property with an irrigation system using potable (drinking) water for outdoor irrigation shall connect to the City's reclaimed water system within 90 days after official notice to do so. Properties with an irrigation well shall physically disconnect their irrigation well from their irrigation system once reclaimed water service is established.

## RECLAIMED WATER AND PRIVATE DRINKING WATER WELLS

State regulations prohibit spraying reclaimed water within 75 feet of any potable (drinking) water well.

**For instance.** Overspray from a reclaimed water irrigation system can not come in contact with the ground within 75 feet of a potable (drinking) water well.

## HOW ARE RECLAIMED WATER PIPING AND PUBLIC AREAS IRRIGATED WITH RECLAIMED WATER DISTINGUISHED AND DESIGNATED?

Pipe, fixtures and signage are color coded **purple**.

Including meter covers, meter box lids and irrigation system sprinkler heads.



THIS PROPERTY IRRIGATED WITH RECLAIMED WATER

**DO NOT DRINK  
NO BEBA**



CITY OF PLANT CITY  
WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
(813) 659-4298

## RECLAIMED WATER USE IN PLANT CITY

Reclaimed water is used in place of potable (drinking) water in beneficial ways.

**Industrial uses** account for the largest use. Industries use reclaimed water for cooling processes.

In **agricultural applications**, reclaimed water is used for irrigating approved crops, which are primarily citrus fruit and landscape plants.

**Commercial uses** include dust control, irrigation and fertilizer application.

**Residential** reclaimed water irrigation is an approved use. Property owners may install their own irrigation system or hire a licensed irrigation contractor. Person(s) doing the work must provide the City a design plan and schematic drawing of the proposed irrigation system.

Based on the City's design and planning process, reclaimed water service may become available in designated areas.

Potential customers may have the opportunity to apply for connection.

*Applications for reclaimed water service and any use of reclaimed water produced by the City, are subject to approval pursuant to State statute and City code. In some circumstances, use of reclaimed water where available, may be required.*

The application process starts in the Engineering Department at City Hall.

## DOES THE CITY USE RECLAIMED WATER?

Reclaimed water is used at the City's Water Reclamation Facility as needed. Reclaimed water is also used for irrigation at designated City properties.

Reclaimed water not used as described above, is permitted by the State, for discharge to a surface water system north of the City.

All approved uses are closely monitored and accounted for. **A comprehensive report is filed annually with the FDEP.**