

Reclaimed Water

IN ST. PETERSBURG

*A water conscious
community*

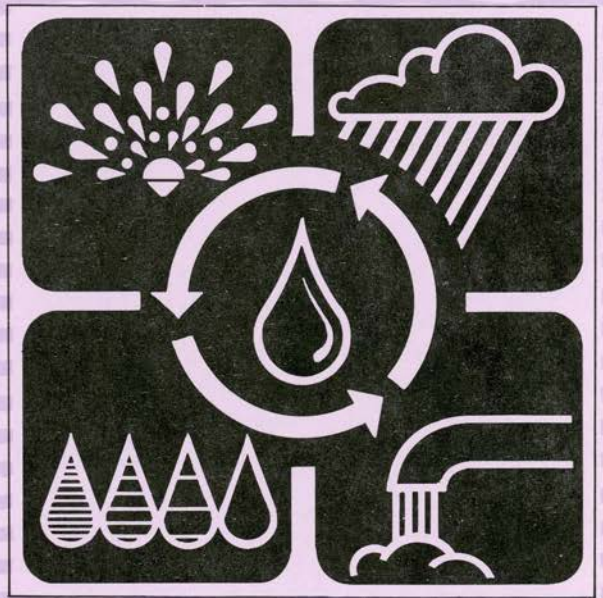


CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

RECLAIMED WATER OFFICE

290 16th Street North

St. Petersburg, FL 33713



CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG



PROTECTING OUR GROUND WATER RESOURCES

Urbanization in and around environmentally-sensitive ground water basins makes it necessary to pursue stricter water withdrawal policies. As the demand for fresh water increases in Florida and around the globe, the challenge to develop alternative water sources to satisfy future needs has become critical.



DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVES

Over the past two decades, science and technology have been striving to develop economical ways to approach fresh water scarcity issues. Reclamation and reuse is now recognized as an outstanding trendsetter in water management and a proven method of conserving fresh water supplies.



WHAT IS RECLAIMED WATER?

Reclaimed water is the final product of multiple-stage advanced treatment process which eliminates pathogens (solids, organics and viruses) and still retains nitrogen and phosphorus elements that work as fertilizers to enhance ornamental plant and turf grass growth. This treatment process produces a water product ideal for lawn sprinkling, but not suitable for human or animal consumption, primarily due to the chemical salts (or, nutrients) that remain in the water.



NUTRIENT ELEMENTS THAT REMAIN IN RECLAIMED WATER

(pH levels range from 6.8 to 7.2):

Aluminum • Chromium • Lead • Molybdenum • Zinc • Phosphorus • Boron • Copper • Magnesium • Nickel • Sodium • Calcium • Iron • Manganese • Potassium • Nitrogen



WHERE OUR WATER GOES

Water-use studies reveal that in many communities, up to 50 percent of the water that flows through our water meters each month is used to maintain landscape and turf grass. This trend is changing in St. Petersburg since much of the demand for irrigation water is satisfied with the reclaimed water program.



REUSE CONSERVES OUR WATER RESOURCES

Since the mid-1980s, demand for the nutrient-rich reclaimed water has greatly increased, while annual demand for potable water in St. Petersburg has remained steady — thanks to the availability of reclaimed water.



THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT USING RECLAIMED WATER

Sprinkling with reclaimed water is not much different from sprinkling with well or tap water. Please keep in mind that this resource is regulated. To take advantage of the program, you must already have, or be willing to

install, a sprinkler system. Existing sprinkler systems can be connected with little or no modifications. Reclaimed water is a nutrient-rich by-product of a biological treatment process. Due to its origin and composition, the use of reclaimed water is restricted by federal, state and local ordinances.

USES NOT PERMITTED

- NO Consumption of reclaimed water. (Human or animal)
- NO Connection to a dwelling for toilet flushing or other household use.
- NO Inter-connection with another water source.
- NO Sprinkling of edible crops. (gardens)
- NO Use for body-contact recreation.
- NO Use through hose bibbs, faucets, quick couplers or hoses, etc.
- NO Filling of swimming pools.
- NO Sharing a common reclaimed service or connection between properties.
- NO Augmenting lake or pond levels.
- NO Filling of decorative pools or fountains.
- NO Supplying air cooling systems. (A/C units)
- NO Washing of equipment such as cars, boats, driveways, structures, etc.

PERMITTING FOR SPECIAL USES

To use reclaimed water for purposes other than sprinkling of landscape, plants and turf grass, you must submit a request for evaluation and approval to: Reclaimed Water Section, Public Utilities Department, 290 16th Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida, 33713.

FOLLOWING THE RULES

Where reclaimed water is used, all of the "USES NOT PERMITTED" listed above are violations of city ordinance or policies and are subject to financial penalties as well as interruption or loss of service. Violations will be enforced.

RECLAIMED WATER IS A RESOURCE USE IT WISELY!

Sprinkling with reclaimed water is a smart alternative to using well water or potable water. Proper use by all customers will help ensure the safe and continued availability of this resource.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

on availability, uses, costs and plant selections, please call or write:



**City of St. Petersburg
RECLAIMED WATER OFFICE
290 16th Street North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33713
(813) 892-5111**

A FEW WATERING TIPS



How much water is enough? Efficient watering wets only the turfgrass root zone, does not saturate the soil and does not run off. Here's a simple watering schedule: apply 1/2 to 3/4 inches of water 2 to 3 times weekly in the summer and every 10 to 14 days in the winter. If it rains, sprinkling should be suspended according to rainfall amount.

CHECK THE VITAL SIGNS

Your lawn won't speak, but will give off silent screams when it has too much or too little water. When out in the yard, check the vital signs. Look for areas that may show signs of:

- excessive moisture
- standing water or
- yellowing of leaf areas.

One way to reduce root rot is to reduce the amount of water you apply during rainy periods, permitting the soil to dry.

Excessive rainfall, combined with a heavy watering schedule, can displace the small pockets of air between the soil particles, not allowing excess water to penetrate the soil

surface. If these conditions exist for an extended time, plant roots remove all oxygen from the water in the soil and the roots cannot breathe. The root dies from lack of oxygen, leading to fungal root rot which eventually kills the plant.

RESUME WATERING WHEN the lawn begins to show these signs of stress:

- slight wilting
- leaf blades folded in half or curled
- footprints remaining in the grass longer, or
- gray spots in the lawn.

MULCHING AND LANDSCAPING

The use of mulch, rock and ground cover can reduce your usable outdoor living space as well as add beauty and character to the landscape. Careful selection and proper application of these materials can:

- reduce maintenance time
- conserve water and
- provide color contrast to landscaping.