



Rowland Water District Frequently Asked Questions for Recycled Water Use

Rowland Water District (District) is expanding the availability of recycled water service within its service area. The following frequently asked questions are intended to provide District customers with a clear understanding of recycled water and its safe and beneficial uses.

1. *What is recycled water?*

- a. Recycled water (also called *Reclaimed Water*) refers to multi-stage treatment of municipal wastewater that is processed at a water recycling (or reclamation) plant. Recycled water is virtually colorless and odorless, and is permissible for full-body human contact but not suitable for direct human consumption.

2. *What is the difference between gray water and recycled water? Are they regulated differently?*

- a. Gray water is untreated residential wastewater that does not come from a toilet or garbage disposal (i.e., bathroom sink, bathtub, shower laundry, etc.). Gray water is regulated by the State of California, and a building permit must be obtained before installing a gray water system to collect and send this water to the resident's landscaping, but water quality is not routinely monitored.
 - i. Recycled water, on the other hand, is water that is refined through several treatment processes to a level that is safe for a variety of beneficial uses. A number of regulatory agencies have adopted requirements that must be followed when producing, distributing, and using recycled water. Water quality is strictly monitored and routinely reported to the respective Regional Water Quality Board.

3. *Is recycled water safe to use?*

- a. Yes. However, recycled water must be used within established guidelines, regulations and permit requirements. Recycled water projects are designed and operated with an emphasis to protect public health and safety. Regular monitoring by the District and county public health agencies ensures that the District supplies a highly treated and disinfected product which meets all California Department Public Health Standards.

4. *What agencies regulate the use of recycled water within the district?*

- a. A number of regulatory agencies have adopted requirements that must be followed when producing, distributing, and using recycled water. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has adopted strict public health and safety requirements and guidelines, which help protect the public from any potential risk associated with use of recycled water. These requirements are described in **Titles 17 and 22 of the California Code of Regulations:**

- i. <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater/Documents/Lawbook/dwregulations-2011-07-14.pdf>.

11. How often do I need to attend Recycled Water site supervisor training?

- a.** Training must be attended every 5 years to ensure that the site supervisor is current on all recycled water regulations. Visit (<http://www.lacsd.org/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=7930>) for a site supervisor training registration form.

12. What is 'industrial reuse' and how can recycled water be used by commercial businesses and industries?

- a.** Industrial water reuse broadly refers to the use of recycled water for uses other than irrigation or groundwater recharge. Use of recycled water by industry has increased substantially in the last two decades due to increases in the cost of drinking water, combined with on-again/off-again water shortages that can limit business activities. Cooling water systems are the largest industrial applications for recycled water, due to the large water demand in their cooling towers and boilers. Other industrial applications include chemical plants, metal finishers, textile and carpet dyeing, paper manufacturing, cement manufacturers, and other cooling and process applications. Recycled water can also be used for dust control and soil compaction at construction sites, commercial laundries, carwash facilities, as well as toilet flushing.

13. Whom should I contact if I have additional questions or need assistance concerning recycled water?

- a.** For further assistance, please contact **Alex Zaragoza**, Cross-Connection Control Specialist at azaragoza@rowlandwater.com or at (562) 383-2350.