

# RECLAIMED WATER

The City of  
Melbourne



## What You Should Know About Reclaimed Water

Reclaimed water is domestic wastewater that is treated, filtered and disinfected to a high degree. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has established strict reclaimed water quality and control standards to make certain the public's health and safety are protected. Continuous monitoring by State-certified City staff ensures that it can be safely used to irrigate golf courses, public areas, and residential landscape.

Florida's growing population continues to place greater demands on our traditional drinking water sources. Concerns over their sustainability continue to mount. Using reclaimed water for irrigation instead of our traditional water sources makes sense, because studies indicate up to 50% of all the water used in our homes is for irrigation purposes.

Reclaimed water has been safely used in Florida for over 30 years. In 2009, the State reclaimed 673 million gallons of water every day. Other non-potable uses of reclaimed water



include industrial processes, agriculture, cooling tower applications and groundwater recharge. The use of reclaimed water also provides an environmentally-sound disposal alternative for the wastewater generated by our community.

### Need Additional Information?

The City's Reclaimed Water Coordinator, Leigh Ann McDonald, is available to answer your questions. You can reach her by calling (321) 674-5857 or emailing her at [lmcdonald@melbourneflorida.org](mailto:lmcdonald@melbourneflorida.org)

### The Do's and Don'ts of Reclaimed Water

Reclaimed water may be used safely for irrigation in residential and commercial areas. However, the following precautions must be observed:

- Backflow prevention devices must be installed on all potable (drinking) water meters.
- Cross-connections to the drinking water system are prohibited.
- Hose bibs on the reclaimed water lines are prohibited unless additional security measures are taken.
- Reclaimed water may not be piped into a dwelling unit for any purpose, including toilet flushing or water-cooled air conditioning operation.
- Reclaimed water cannot be used to fill swimming pools, wading pools, or hot tubs. It is not suitable for washing pets.
- Reclaimed water should not be directly applied to fruits and vegetables that are not peeled, skinned, cooked or thermally processed before consumption.
- Properties using reclaimed water must display approved public advisory signs.