

Using Reclaimed Water City of Venice Florida

Purpose of Document:

This document is a summary of important facts concerning the use of Reclaimed Water for irrigation within the City of Venice. The information is based on City Ordinances and State Regulations regarding the availability and use of reclaimed water. Additional specific and technical information can be obtained by direct reference to the City's Code of Ordinances, Chapter 74 - Utilities, Article IV, Reclaimed Water System, and Chapter 62-610 of the Florida Administrative Code, Reuse of Reclaimed Water and Land Application.

What is Reclaimed Water?

Reclaimed water is highly treated wastewater. It has a good, clear appearance, is non-staining, odorless, and is bacteriologically safe. Cooking with or drinking reclaimed water, by humans or animals, is not allowed under State regulations and City Ordinances but can be used safely for irrigation in areas open to public access and for residential and commercial irrigation.

Advantages of Reclaimed Water:

The use of reclaimed water for irrigation is a proven technology that is safe and beneficial. It has several advantages over irrigating with a well or potable water. The use of reclaimed water reduces the amount of raw water being pumped from our valuable underground aquifers. Reclaimed water is four times less to use than irrigating with potable water and unlike a well, generally does not require a pump or electricity for irrigating. Reclaimed water contains small amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus that are beneficial to plants and turf growth, which could reduce the amount of fertilizer used to maintain lawns and landscapes.

Connection Procedure and Requirements:

Where reclaimed water is available, upon request, the City will install a purple meter box and meter adjacent to the property line. The City will also install a cross-connection control device on the potable water service, if one is not already present. The meter and box installed by the City, may only be used by the City.

Homeowners are responsible to make the connection from their side of the meter to their irrigation system or to a below ground hose connection. In either case a valve must be installed by the homeowner to control when the reclaimed water is turned on by the resident. The valve must be placed downstream of the meter using standard plumbing connections and include a below ground on and off valve within the homeowner supplied box. If a below ground hose connection is used, the valve may only be operated using a tool (valve key) to prevent unauthorized use.

The homeowner's box lid shall be clearly labeled non-potable (e.g., "Do Not Drink", the standard international symbol, etc.). No above ground shut off valves or hose bibbs are permitted to be used or connected to the irrigation system. All piping, valves, and outlets shall be color coded using purple for reclaimed water distribution systems.



Utilities Department

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Cost:

The FY 24-25 cost for high pressure reclaimed water to a residential property with a typical size meter (5/8 x 3/4 inch) is \$1.51 per 1,000 gallons for consumption under 12,000 gallons per month, where available. There is not a monthly readiness fee for reclaimed water. There is a tap fee for the City to install a service line from the reclaimed water main to the right-of-way adjacent to the private property boundary and install a meter and box. Tap fees differ depending on the meter size and on the distance the property is from the reclaimed main. Fees may change per fiscal year; please contact the Utilities Department to verify current rates (941) 480-3333.

Restriction on the Use of Reclaimed Water:

Reclaimed water is safe for irrigation and other ornamental uses, but is not considered safe for drinking. Certain safeguards are required in order to reduce the possibility of accidental drinking of reclaimed water. Swimming pools and spas cannot be filled using reclaimed water. **Above ground spigots and faucets shall not be connected to the reclaimed water system. Reclaimed water cannot be piped into or used inside a structure.** Reclaimed water may not be used for washing cars, pressure washing, or other activities that result in the discharge of reclaimed water from the homeowner's property.

Inter-connections between reclaimed water lines and potable water lines is not permitted. The City may inspect any property to insure City Ordinances and State Regulations are being followed, and no cross-connection exists. In the event a cross-connection is found to exist, the user will be disconnected from the reclaimed water system until the connection is corrected.

Reclaimed water is a valuable resource, avoid overwatering you lawn, allowing the reclaimed water to pool, puddle, or run off you property. Properly maintain your irrigation system to avoid leaks and keep it adjusted to minimize overspray onto paved surfaces, swimming pools or spas, and onto adjacent properties. Utilize mulch and rain sensors where possible.

Reclaimed water may be off from time to time because of shortages in supplies. We try hard to minimize this inconvenience.

City of Venice Reclaimed Water System:

Reclaimed water is produced and stored at the Venice Eastside Water Reclamation Facility and meets or exceeds all State of Florida requirements for non-consumption applications. If you would like a tour of this facility, please call (941) 486-2788.

The City of Venice would like to encourage you to use reclaimed water. For additional information, please contact the Utilities Department at (941) 480-3333.

Drilling a well or the use of potable water for an irrigation system is not permitted in areas where reclaimed water is available. Refer to the City's Code of Ordinances Reclaimed Water System, Chapter 74 - Utilities, Article IV, and Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Reuse of Reclaimed Water and Land Application, Chapter 62-610 for requirements that must be followed.