

Guidelines for Fire Departments Information for Working with Reclaimed Water

The reclaimed water produced and delivered by Tucson Water is classified by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality as Class A water. Reclaimed water is **not** for drinking or bathing. It is highly treated wastewater that is suitable for irrigation of food crops, turf, ornamental landscaping, and orchards and vineyards. It can be used for dust suppression, livestock watering and cooling towers and for toilet flushing in non-residential buildings.

All persons working with reclaimed water should be provided with information about reclaimed water and training in safe practices and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for working with reclaimed water. Safe practices include:

1. Provision of information, including reclaimed water quality information, about reclaimed water (available at www.tucsonaz.gov/water/reclaimed).
2. Avoiding direct contact with reclaimed water by:
 - wearing gloves, boots, and eye protection while working with reclaimed water
 - refraining from eating, drinking, or smoking while working with reclaimed water
 - Washing with potable water and soap before eating, drinking, or smoking after working with reclaimed water
 - Storing materials used to apply or convey reclaimed water securely in locations where they do not come into contact with potable water
3. Wearing appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE), including, but not limited to gloves, boots, and eye protection.
4. Knowing what to do in case of direct contact with or consumption of reclaimed water:
 - In the event of direct contact with reclaimed water, immediately wash the affected area thoroughly with potable water and soap and change into clean, dry clothes. If irritation, rash, or other problems develop, be sure to tell your medical provider that the affected area came into contact with reclaimed water. She/he will be able to determine if the problem is related to the water.
 - If reclaimed water is accidentally consumed, it is unlikely to cause ill effects. However, watch for signs of illness, most likely, but not limited to gastrointestinal upset, for ten days after the reclaimed water has been consumed. If you get sick, be sure to tell your medical provider that reclaimed water was ingested. She/he will be able to determine if the illness is related to the water.
5. Using tools that are dedicated for use only on reclaimed water systems and appurtenances. Tools that have been used on reclaimed water systems and appurtenances must be sanitized prior to use on the potable water system.