

RECLAIMED WATER

Email: TW_reclaimed@tucsonaz.gov Printed on recycled paper Winter 2012

Reclaimed Water Site Inspection and Testing at Schools and Parks

Protecting the public's health and safety by ensuring that reclaimed water is used safely is a top priority at Tucson Water. Last year we began a comprehensive program to inspect all reclaimed water sites for compliance with local regulations and to test each site for potential cross-connections with the drinking water system. The Site Inspection and Testing Program ensures all parks, schools, golf courses, and commercial sites using reclaimed water are inspected



and tested annually. Single family homes are required to be inspected and tested once every five years.

During this first year of the program, Tucson Water trained and certified 32 Reclaimed Water Site Testers, who have begun to inspect parks and schools that use reclaimed water.

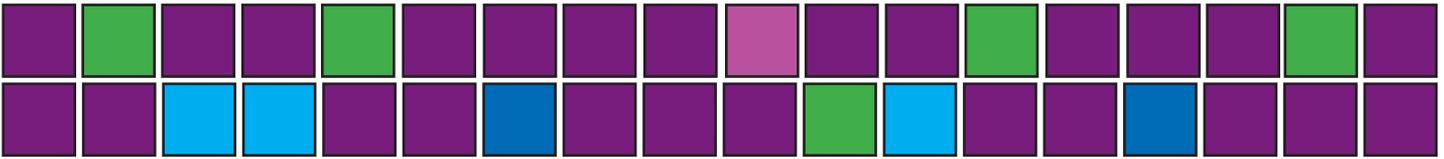
Tucson Water will continue to conduct the inspection and testing of single family sites; however, beginning in 2015 all other sites will be required to be inspected and tested by a certified Reclaimed Water Site Tester.

Watch, Listen & Learn – Tucson Water's New Reclaimed Water Video

Click to watch Reclaimed Water Basics for Residential Customers, available at the Tucson Water website at Tucsonaz.gov/water/reclaimed, via YouTube (key words Tucson Reclaimed), or youtube.com/watch?v=60UcLGcDR9E

Learn about how water is recycled, the uses of reclaimed water and the benefits of reclaimed water.





Backflow Prevention Assemblies Must Be Tested Annually

Since reclaimed water is not treated to drinking water standards, it cannot be allowed to enter Tucson Water’s drinking water system. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) requires all sites that have both reclaimed water and drinking water service to have a backflow prevention assembly on the drinking water service.

A reduced pressure backflow prevention assembly protects the public drinking water system. In the event that the reclaimed and drinking water systems are interconnected, the backflow prevention assembly prevents reclaimed water from being drawn into the drinking water system.

To ensure that a backflow prevention assembly is working correctly, it must be tested annually by a certified backflow prevention assembly tester registered with Tucson Water. You can find a tester in the Yellow Pages or at tucsonaz.gov/water/testers.

You will receive a notice from Tucson Water 45 days before the annual backflow assembly test is due. Since the test is due the same date every year, you don’t need to wait for the notice to make arrangements for the test.

With this year’s test notice, customers received a magnet to remind them of their annual test date. If you didn’t receive a magnet with your test notice, please let us know and we’ll send you one. Call (520) 791-2650.



Our Reclaimed Water Logo

The reclaimed water logo featuring the Desert Globemallow has been updated to include the message “Reclaimed Water: A Recycled Resource.”

The Globemallow (*Sphaeralcea Ambigua*) is native to Arizona and is featured on the logo because of its low water use requirements and its ability to ‘reclaim’ sandy washes

and rocky hillsides. It is the most drought resistant member of the Mallow family and in wet years, spectacular orange displays of Globemallow flowers can be seen.

Recycled water is an important water resource today and for the future. Tucson Water uses some of its recycled water to produce reclaimed water, which is specially treated for applications such as irrigation, dust control, and industrial uses.

Another Great Use for Reclaimed Water – Flushing!

Did you know that reclaimed water can be used for toilet flushing in non-residential facilities? The Lee H. Brown Family Conservation Learning Center at the Reid Park Zoo is an example of a “green” and sustainable building. Using reclaimed water for toilet flushing helped the building achieve its Leadership

in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification.

La Madera and Menlo Parks are also using reclaimed water for toilet flushing as does Civano Middle School in the Vail School District.





It's the Law –

Reclaimed Water Discharge Must Be Reported

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) rules prohibit the discharge of reclaimed water from the site where it is used (Arizona Administrative Code Title 18, Chapter 9, Article 6, R18-9-704). Discharges are defined as reclaimed water or reclaimed water mixed with

storm water that runs off the site where it is applied.

If reclaimed water leaves your site for any reason, including a broken irrigation pipe or malfunction of the irrigation system, you must report this runoff to Tucson Water within 24 hours.



Two Easy Ways to Report a Discharge

Online

Click on tucsonaz.gov/water/report_recl and complete the online reporting form

Phone

Call the Tucson Water Backflow Prevention/ Reclaimed Water Section at **(520) 791-2650**.

Failure to report discharges could result in the termination of your reclaimed water service.

The Benefits of Using Reclaimed Water

Recycling water for use as reclaimed water:

1 provides our community with a local renewable water source,

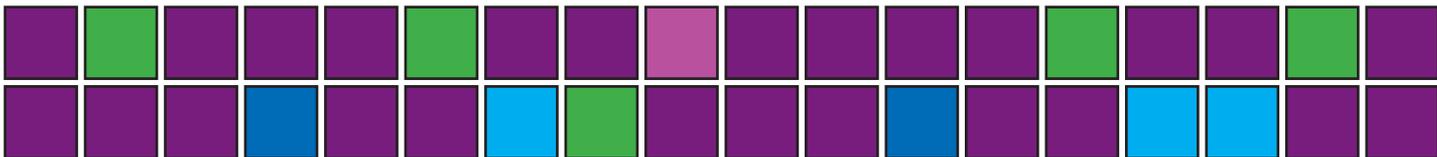
2 helps to ensure reliable water supplies today and in the future,



3 has a variety of targeted applications such as irrigation, dust control, industrial uses and more,

4 can save customers money because the rates are lower than most of the large volume rates for drinking water.



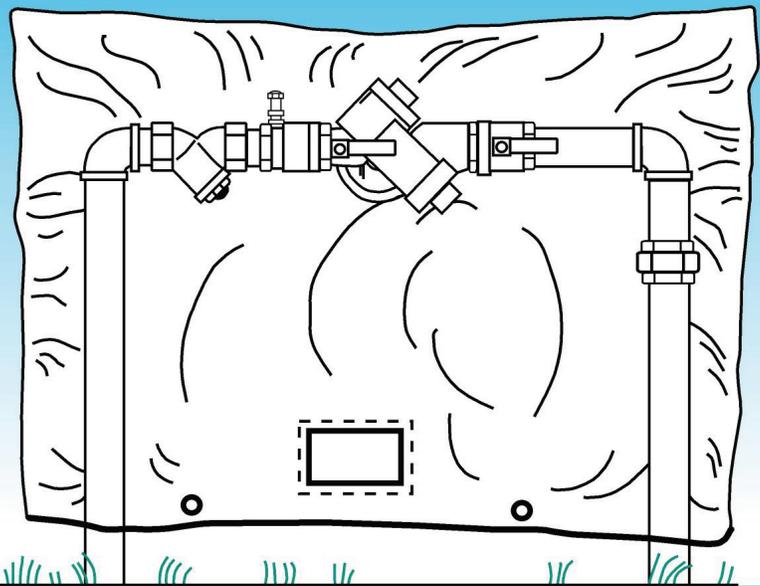


Reclaimed Water Customer Checklist

An annual inspection of your reclaimed water system ensures compliance with your Reclaimed Water User Agreement and that reclaimed water is being used safely. At your home or facility, use this checklist to help you inspect your property's reclaimed system. A downloadable check list is also available at tucsonaz.gov/water/reclaimed.

- Review the ADEQ Reuse Rules and your Reclaimed Water User Agreement
- Check the backflow prevention assembly for proper operation
- Identify and label irrigation system as carrying reclaimed water
- Check operation of irrigation system
- Draw a conceptual plan of the irrigation system in preparation for maintenance or repair work
- Ask a plumber about thermal expansion protection
- Check signs for fading and damage
- Report reclaimed water discharges

If you have any questions, contact your area Cross-connection Control Specialist. See the map on our website tucsonaz.gov/water/reclaimed to locate the specialist for your area.



Don't Let Your Backflow Prevention Assembly Freeze

Many weather experts are forecasting that this winter will be cold and dry. When temperatures dip below freezing like several days in February of 2011, inevitably some backflow prevention assemblies will freeze and become damaged. Don't let this happen; freeze protection is easy and inexpensive. When temperatures dip:

- wrap a blanket or towel around the assembly for a temporary solution,
- protect the assembly with an insulation bag, an enclosure, or pipe insulation wrap,
- install a freeze protection valve on the assembly to help protect it from freezing,
- ask your backflow tester or plumber for information about other methods to keep your assembly from freezing.

For accommodations, materials in accessible formats, foreign language interpreters, and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact Tucson Water at (520) 791-4331 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD.