



# RECLAIMED WATER

## Saving Groundwater for Drinking

Spring 2007

## Backflow Prevention Assemblies Must be Tested Annually

All properties that have reclaimed water service are required to have a backflow prevention assembly (BPA) on the **potable water service**. In the event that the reclaimed system is accidentally connected to the potable system, the BPA will prevent reclaimed water from contaminating the potable water.

The Tucson Code requires your backflow prevention assembly to be tested every year to be sure it is functioning properly. We send you a notice 45 days before the date the test must be submitted to Tucson Water (compliance date). When you receive this notice, you should contact a certified backflow tester to perform the test. You can find a tester by looking in the yellow pages

under "Backflow" or at our website at [www.tucsonaz.gov/water/backflow.htm](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/water/backflow.htm).

After testing your assembly, the tester will give you a copy of the test report and forward a copy to Tucson Water. If we have not received a test report 15 days before the compliance date, a second notice is sent. All notices are mailed to the "the financially responsible party" - the person who pays the water bill. Sometimes this is not the person occupying the home or business with the backflow prevention assembly, so, we also mail a courtesy copy of the second notice to the service address.

When you receive a notice, carefully read both sides. If you have questions, please call our office at (520) 791-2650.

## Purple Means Reclaimed Water

Purple is internationally recognized as the color that designates reclaimed water. Throughout Tucson you see purple signs on sites that use reclaimed water for irrigation. You may also have noticed purple meter box lids, valves, and irrigation controllers. Underground reclaimed water pipes are labeled with the words "reclaimed water" or wrapped with identifying tape. This identification of the components of the reclaimed water system is important because reclaimed water, as a non-potable supply, must be handled differently from potable water. It is important that reclaimed water pipes are never cross-connected

with the potable system and the labeling of the reclaimed pipes helps ensure this won't happen.

Recently, purple irrigation pipe became available at local plumbing supply businesses. This purple pipe provides faster and better identification than the labeling or taped pipe. On January 1, 2007, a new requirement for the use of purple pipe on all new irrigation systems and repairs on existing systems became effective. For more detail go to our website at [www.tucsonaz.gov/reclaimed.htm](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/reclaimed.htm) and click on "Purple Pipe Requirement" under Rules, Regulations and Design Standards.



## **Need a Sign?**

Replacement reclaimed water signs are \$10.00. If you need signs, call Tucson Water at (520) 791-2650.



CITY OF TUCSON  
TUCSON WATER DEPARTMENT  
310 W. ALAMEDA  
P.O. BOX 27210  
TUCSON, AZ 85726-7210



## **Runoff Must Be Reported**

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Rules prohibit the runoff of reclaimed water or reclaimed water mixed with stormwater from the site (Arizona Administrative Code Title 18, Chapter 9, Article 6, R18-9-704).

If reclaimed water runs off of your site for any reason, including breakage or malfunction of the irrigation system, please report this runoff to Tucson Water at (520) 791-2650.