

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE USE OF RECYCLED WATER

1. What is recycled water and is it safe?

Recycled water is wastewater that has been processed through primary, secondary and tertiary treatment and disinfected with chlorine. It meets the strict standards and safety regulations of the State Water Resources Control Board and is safe for all human contact except drinking.

2. What are the permitted uses of recycled water?

Based on requirements set forth in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, tertiary-treated recycled water can be used to water lawns, gardens, trees, edible fruits, vegetables, and herbs. However, all fruits, vegetables, and herbs must be washed with drinking water prior to consumption. Recycled water tends to have a higher salt content than drinking water, so it's best to direct the recycled water to the roots of the plants and not the foliage. This will protect them from potential leaf burn.

3. What are prohibited uses of recycled water?

- Drinking
- Cooking or use in the kitchen
- Bathing or showering
- Filling swimming pools or spas
- Children's water toys
- Discharging to the street gutter or storm drain system
- Plumbing to a household domestic plumbing system

4. Why is recycled water not safe to drink? What happens if I drink it?

Recycled water is not approved for drinking. However, it is treated to an extremely high standard, and accidental consumption is not likely to make you ill. If you accidentally drink recycled water, there is no need to panic. Should you experience any adverse symptoms or feel unwell, consult your doctor.

5. How much will recycled water cost me?

LADWP is offering this service at no cost to its residential and commercial customers during the Residential Recycled Water Fill Station Program.

6. How much recycled water can I pick up at a time?

Participants will be allowed to pick up a maximum of 300 gallons of recycled water, free of charge, per visit. Due to the heavy weight of water, plan accordingly when determining how much water to pick up and keep in mind the size of your vehicle when selecting transport containers. Ensure your vehicle can handle the amount and weight of recycled water you collect and transport. Driving a vehicle with heavy, sloshing liquid decreases vehicle stability and requires longer stopping distance. Tie-down straps to secure the containers are recommended for your safety. The City of Los Angeles, its departments and divisions (including LADWP and the Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN)) are not liable for any damages to you or your vehicle due to your participation in the Residential Recycled Water Fill Station Program.

WATER IS HEAVY!

One gallon of water weighs 8.34 pounds.
Two 55-gallon drums of recycled water weigh 918 pounds; 300 gallons of water weigh 2,500 pounds or 1.25 tons.

7. What are the rules and requirements for participating in the Recycled Water Fill Station Program?

- a. Prior to picking up recycled water, you must sign and turn in a User Application and Agreement to LADWP staff, along with a recent LADWP bill to confirm eligibility. You must also attend a training session provided by LADWP on the proper uses of recycled water.
- b. Your collection and storage containers must have watertight lids and not leak.
- c. LADWP staff will place DO NOT DRINK purple stickers on each container you use. This is to ensure that everyone is aware that recycled water is stored in the container and the water is not suitable for human consumption. Do not remove the stickers.
- d. You must secure all containers for safe transport.
- e. Containers, hoses, and other equipment shall not be re-used to carry potable water.
- f. Recycled water is not for drinking, playing with, or for use in food preparation or clean-up.
- g. Use drinking water to wash all fruits, vegetables, or other edible plants that have been watered with recycled water.
- h. DO NOT cross-connect recycled water to potable water distribution system. Recycled water shall not be placed in a storage container that is connected to the landscape irrigation system or the onsite drinking water supply.
- i. Recycled water shall not be discharged to the street gutter or storm drain system and must not be applied in such a way to create runoff or ponding.
- j. Recycled water shall not be applied where it could spray on external drinking water fountains, passing vehicles, buildings, or areas where food is handled or eaten.
- k. Recycled water obtained from the Residential Recycled Water Fill Station Program must be applied by hand watering only.
- l. Practice good sanitation habits. Wash hands with drinking water after using recycled water, especially before eating or smoking.
- m. LADWP and LASAN may conduct site visits to ensure your proper use of recycled water and to ensure the health and safety of you, your household, business, and the public.