



City West Water  
LIMITED



# connecting to recycled water information sheet

*This information sheet accompanies the City West Water DVD "Getting Connected to Recycled Water" which:*

- describes the key requirements when installing recycled water plumbing
- provides technical information to connect residential dwellings to dual reticulation

## Recycled Water – A Smarter Approach

In order to conserve precious drinking water, City West Water is implementing several projects to provide recycled water to our customers.

We are currently working to provide Class A recycled water to new homes constructed in the three housing estates in Wyndham Vale – Manor Lakes, Bluestone Green and Riverwalk. Other recycled water projects will supply recycled water for industrial use and open space irrigation.

Class A recycled water will be supplied to new homes through a

separate purple pipe for use in the home to flush the toilet and water the garden.

Class A recycled water is not intended for drinking, cooking, bathing, showering or swimming.

## The Role of the Plumber

Plumbers must install recycled water pipes in compliance with the plumbing standard [AS3500] and the Plumbing Industry Commission (PIC) Recycled Water Plumbing Guide [this is available free of charge from the PIC website: [www.pic.vic.gov.au/www/html/181-recycled-water-or-greywater.asp](http://www.pic.vic.gov.au/www/html/181-recycled-water-or-greywater.asp)].

Compliance with the Recycled

Water Plumbing Guide is necessary to satisfy Environment Protection Authority (EPA) requirements.

## Registration Cards

City West Water requires all plumbers nominated on an application to connect to recycled water to hold a City West Water Recycled Water Plumbing Registration Card.

Attendance at a Recycled Water Plumber Awareness Workshop is compulsory to obtain a Recycled Water Plumbing Registration Card.

To register please phone City West Water's Water Recycling Officer on 03 9313 8225.

## How to Connect to Recycled Water

**Recycled Water is installed to toilets and front and back garden taps.**

Step 1: Application to connect is lodged	Conditions of Connection
Step 2: Installation of the dual pipe – inspection process	Following the approval of the application to connect to recycled water services, a letter of consent is issued by City West Water. The consent outlines specific conditions of connection; that is conditions under which we would supply sewer services, drinking water and recycled water to a property. It is the plumber's responsibility to read, understand and comply with all these conditions.
Stage 1: Meter to dwelling	Plumbers are responsible for booking in three inspections at the specified stages with the PIC. These inspections can be booked through the PIC, ph: (03) 9835 5540 or 9835 5556. The three inspections are required to meet EPA requirements and to avoid cross connections between the drinking water and recycled water systems.
Stage 2: Rough In	The service pipes are below ground between the meter assembly at or near the property boundary and the house. A PIC inspection is required during this stage.
Stage 3: Commissioning	Pipe work to fixtures within the home prior to plaster installation. A second PIC inspection is required during this stage.
	Correct commissioning of the recycled water system is required to verify that no cross connections between the drinking water and recycled water have taken place. The commissioning procedure is outlined in the PIC's Plumbing Guide. A third PIC inspection is required during this stage.



## Key items to be inspected during construction \*

### Pipes

Recycled water pipes are distinctive in several ways:

- they are always a solid purple colour
- piping must be of an approved standard
- separation of services below ground must maintain a minimum 300mm horizontal gap between the drinking water and recycled water supplies
- underground pipes must be covered with a standard identification tape that is attached every 3 metres. This distinctive tape has "Recycled Water – do not drink" printed on it
- separation of above ground services reduces to a minimum 100mm except for a reasonable crossover situation.

### Hose Bib Taps

- the recycled water hose bib tap is differentiated from the drinking tap with a 5/8 inch BSP inlet thread. This is important because it ensures that no one can interchange the drinking water and recycled water taps
- taps are solid purple colour
- taps have a removable tap handle to prevent inappropriate use
- all external taps must have a standard prohibition sign that says: "Recycled water – do not drink". Signs are included with the tap and bib handle kits.
- an external hose bib tap is required to be installed on the recycled water plumbing installation to serve garden areas.

Recycled water and drinking water meters are installed by the water authority for all dry tapped properties.

\* Note: More detailed requirements are available in the Recycled Water Plumbing Guide 2005, published by the Plumbing Industry Commission.

**For more information on recycled water please phone City West Water's Water Recycling Officer on 03 9313 8225.**



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## Checking for Cross Connections

### Step one

Turn off the drinking water supply to the property at the drinking water meter located at the front of the property. The recycled water supply will remain on.

### Step two

Turn on all sink, bath and shower taps (both hot and cold) one by one. All taps should run dry after a short period of time.

### Step three

After all taps have run dry, flush all toilets. Toilets should refill as normal as they should be connected to the recycled water supply.

### Step four

Turn on all outside taps. The external drinking water tap should run dry.

Recycled water taps should continue to run and should be clearly marked with the appropriate recycled water signage.

### Step five

To check appliances in the home, such as dishwashers and washing machines, firstly turn off the recycled water supply at the purple recycled water meter and run the recycled water supply dry via the outside taps or toilet flushing.

Next, turn the drinking water meter back on and then the external drinking water tap to clear trapped air. Then turn on the internal appliances, which should fill as normal. If the appliances do not fill, they have been connected to the recycled water supply.

### Step six

Turn the recycled water supply back on at the recycled water meter. Then slowly turn on the recycled water tap located the furthest away from the recycled water meter so that all air will be cleared from the pipeline while it is refilling.

Source: Recycled Water Plumbing Guide 2005, published by the Plumbing Industry Commission.

