



Recycled Water Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Is tertiary-treated recycled water safe?

YES! Regional San's tertiary-treated recycled water is safe for a variety of intended uses. However, this recycled water is not intended for drinking or for food preparation.

The California Division of Drinking Water has established uniform statewide recycled water standards in the California Code of Regulations (Title 22, Division 4, Chapter 3).

Regional San's tertiary-treated recycled water meets and exceeds the Title 22 standards.

Q. How do I know it's safe?

Regional San tests the recycled water daily to ensure that it has been adequately disinfected.

If a batch of recycled water does not meet regulatory standards, a trained plant operator sends it through the treatment process again until the standards are met.

Q. What's the safety record for recycled water?

Excellent! California adopted water reuse regulations in 1918 and continually monitors and improves recycled water standards and requirements, with the most recent standards for non-potable reuse being adopted in 2014.

Since the first municipal use of recycled water in 1912, there have been no documented diseases, illnesses, or other adverse public health problems traced to the proper and allowed uses of recycled water that meets regulatory requirements.

Recycled water is monitored and tested to ensure that its quality is appropriate and safe for specific permitted uses. Similarly, other states and countries with water recycling regulations as protective as California's have experienced no adverse health effects from proper use of disinfected tertiary-treated recycled water, including Florida, Japan, Australia, and several European countries.

Q. What happens if recycled water splashes on me?

There have been no reported instances of skin rashes resulting from individuals coming in contact with recycled water. However, if you do come in contact with recycled water, apply hand sanitizer or wash hands with soap and potable (drinking) water.

Q. What if recycled water comes into contact with a cut or abrasion on my skin?

As a precaution, clean the affected area with soap and potable water or an antiseptic towelette, apply an antibiotic ointment, and cover with a bandage.

Q. What if I get recycled water in my eyes?

If you get recycled water in your eyes, rinse your eyes with potable water or use eye drops. Recycled water is highly disinfected, so the chlorine may cause a mild burning sensation, just as if you opened your eyes while under water in a swimming pool.

Q. Will I need to use a special set of tools or equipment when I'm using recycled water?

- All equipment (hoses, spray nozzles, containers, etc.) that comes in contact with recycled water must be dedicated for use only with recycled water.
- Containers must be labeled with the "Recycled Water – Do Not Drink" sticker provided by Regional San.
- Equipment must be disinfected with bleach and potable water prior to re-connecting to a potable water system.

Q. Who should I contact with any additional questions or concerns?

Please contact Regional San at (916) 876-FILL or via email at rfillstations@sacsewer.com.