

# Washing clothes with recycled water

If your home is within a residential estate that is supplied with Class A recycled water and was built after January 2014, you may notice three washing machine tap connections in your laundry. One of them will be purple – this is your recycled water tap. You can choose to connect your washing machine to this tap and wash your clothes with recycled water.

## What is recycled water?

Class A recycled water is produced from the wastewater from our homes, which is transferred to a treatment plant and treated to what is called Class A standard. It is produced to meet *Australian Recycled Water Guidelines* and is a safe, high quality, alternative water supply. South East Water already supplies recycled water to toilets, laundry washing machines and outdoor taps in specific residential estates. It's a great alternative to using drinking water for non-drinking water activities.

## Why wash your clothes with recycled water?

Recycled water is a sustainable water supply, and using it for activities that don't need drinking water quality water helps reduce pressure on these supplies.

Because recycled water is priced 15 per cent less than the drinking water rate per kilolitre, it can also help you save on your bill. Washing machines account for approximately 16 per cent of total household water use, so using recycled water here is another great way to use water smarter.

Households in parts of Sydney are already washing their clothes with recycled water.

Class A recycled water is produced to meet *Australian Recycled Water Guidelines*, and is approved for use by Department of Health and the Environment Protection Authority.

For more information on using recycled water, see

[southeastwater.com.au/recycledwater](http://southeastwater.com.au/recycledwater)

## What should I expect when I wash my clothes with Class A recycled water?

You should not notice any difference washing clothes with Class A recycled water compared with drinking water.

Just like washing with drinking water, different washing detergents produce varying wash results and it's your choice about which detergent works best for you. For more information on the topic, refer to the CHOICE website for independent advice and research on the performance of laundry detergents used with drinking water. Please note South East Water takes no responsibility for the information provided by CHOICE.

## Are there any health impacts from washing my clothes in recycled water?

No. The Department of Health and Environment Protection Authority have approved the use of Class A recycled water for clothes washing and recycled water is safe to be in contact with.

## Can I use my washing machine's hot wash function with recycled water?

For those washing machines that have a heat function, it is fine to use this with recycled water. Heating recycled water during the wash process won't change the quality of water and it is safe to use for this purpose.

