

# Connecting to recycled water

## A guide for plumbers and builders

### About this guide

Class A recycled water offers new residential developments across Melbourne's outer south east a sustainable water source. This guide outlines South East Water's requirements for installing recycled water. It supports the industry requirements outlined in the *Australian Standard for Water Services AS/NZS 3500.1: 2018* and South East Water's available at [southeastwater.com.au](http://southeastwater.com.au).

### Key steps

The following information outlines the key steps you need to follow when installing recycled water.

#### Step 1. Apply for a recycled water connection

Submit an application for a recycled water connection in PropertyConnect at [southeastwater.com.au](http://southeastwater.com.au). Fees apply for dry tapping connections for both drinking water and Class A recycled water connections.

#### Step 2. Arrange inspections

At three key stages during the plumbing installation you need to request an inspection of the works with South East Water.

#### Step 3. Commissioning

The recycled water meter assembly will be restricted with a locking device until the recycled water plumbing is commissioned by the South East Water. The locking device will be removed at the time of the final commissioning inspection. Penalties will apply if the locking device is removed prior to commissioning.

### How to book

Book with South East Water using Property Connect or on **(03) 9552 3219**.

Booking code	Inspection type	Responsible for inspection
R1	First inspection: Laying pipes from meters to the house	Book with South East Water
R2	Second inspection: Rough in of house i.e. pipe work supplying recycled water to approved outlets	Book with South East Water
R3	Final inspection: Fit-off and commissioning (prior to occupancy)	Book with South East Water



*All recycled water plumbing must be completed by a suitably licensed plumber.*

### Safety

While recycled water isn't suitable for drinking, it is safe to be in contact with. Before preparing food however, we recommend that you wash your hands with soap and drinking water. Due to its high nutrient levels of nitrogen and phosphorous, recycled water run-off should be prevented from flowing into the stormwater drainage system.

Inspections are an important part of the recycled water installation process to ensure no cross connections occur between drinking and recycled water and that all requirements for the plumbing installation have been met.

## Information about recycled water

### What is recycled water?

Recycled water is wastewater that is treated to Class A standard in accordance with Environment Protection Authority and Department of Health and Human Services guidelines. It is a great alternative to drinking water for non-drinking uses such as toilet flushing and outdoor watering. It's also a sustainable water solution that qualifies homes for 6 star energy rating.

### Why are taps, pipes and meters purple?

Recycled water installations are coloured purple so those installing or using them can easily identify it. The colour of these items must not be changed. All external recycled water hose bib taps must be purple and incorporate a removable handle and nonstandard inlet thread. They must also have a prohibition sign – Recycled water – do not drink, compliant with AS1319.

### Recycled water mains

The recycled water main is laid at the same time as the drinking water main during construction. It is coloured purple. The water pressure in the recycled water main is similar to that in the drinking water main, making it suitable for outdoor use and irrigation systems. During construction, each property is serviced with individual points to connect to both the recycled water and drinking water meter. This type of connection is known as a dry tapping.

### Meter assemblies

Homes with recycled water have both a standard drinking water meter and a recycled water meter. The recycled water meter assembly will be coloured purple and configured in accordance with South East Water's meter configuration drawings. Authorised contractors will install the dry tapping for both water meter assemblies. Refer to our Water Metering and Servicing Guidelines for further information and diagrams. If the proposed location of a driveway or paving conflicts with the existing recycled water dry tapping location, a plug and re-tap will be required. The property owner will be responsible for these costs.



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### Recycled water is suitable for:

- flushing toilets
- clothes washing
- watering the garden, including vegetables
- washing cars
- cleaning the outside of homes and outdoor furniture
- fighting fires.

### Recycled water is not suitable for:

- drinking
- cooking or other kitchen purposes
- bathing and showering
- swimming pools and spas
- evaporative coolers
- children's water toys.

### Want more information or advice about recycled water?

Contact us on 9552 3770  
or email [propdev@sew.com.au](mailto:propdev@sew.com.au)

Faults and emergencies 132 812  
Account enquiries 131 851  
General enquiries 131 694

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

WatersEdge  
101 Wells Street Frankston VIC 3199  
PO Box 2268 Seaford VIC 3198  
ABN 89 066 902 547

South East  
Water

