

Recycled Water

Do's and Don'ts

Cairns Regional Council will progressively supply recycled water to suitable new housing developments in the Cairns Regional Council area. Cairns Regional Council recycled water is produced to the highest level for non-drinking purposes (Class A+ quality) in accordance with State and National water quality guidelines, to ensure the health and safety of our recycled water customers. Council has a responsibility to ensure that the recycled water system is safe and effective for our community and the environment. There are certain responsibilities you have, as the recycled water customer, to ensure your health and safety and that of visitors to your property.

✓ **Class A+ recycled water supplied by Cairns Regional Council is approved for the following uses:**

- ✓ Watering gardens
- ✓ Toilet flushing
- ✓ Car and boat washing
- ✓ Washing of houses and hard surfaces (external)
- ✓ Filling ornamental water features and ponds not used for swimming
- ✓ Fire fighting

✗ **Class A+ recycled water supplied by Cairns Regional Council MUST NOT be used for the following:**

- ✗ Drinking (human or animal consumption)
- ✗ Cooking or other kitchen purposes
- ✗ Personal washing such as baths, hand basins, showers or bidets
- ✗ Evaporative coolers
- ✗ Indoor household cleaning
- ✗ Swimming pools and spas
- ✗ Recreational activities involving water contact e.g. playing under sprinklers

While Class A+ recycled water is of the highest quality, it is not approved as drinking water. Exposure to small amounts of Class A+ recycled water via splashing or ingestion does not pose a risk to health. However, if you accidentally drink recycled water and feel unwell you should seek medical attention.



As a recycled water customer, it is your responsibility to:

1. Only use recycled water supplied by Cairns Regional Council for the approved uses specified above.
2. Only use recycled water on your own property, unless prior written consent is obtained from Cairns Regional Council.
3. Legally, you have a 'Duty of Care' to make sure that your family, visitors and any contractor on your property knows that recycled water is in use on site. 'Duty of Care' means residents are responsible for the health and safety of all visitors. Removing recycled water tap handles when not in use will prevent anyone, in particular children, from unintentionally drinking recycled water.
4. If you lease your property, ensure tenants are aware that recycled water is in use on the property and are notified of how recycled water may be used.
5. Ensure that hazardous chemicals are not put down your sinks, toilets or drains as these can make the production of recycled water more difficult.
6. Allow inspections and testing of plumbing at an agreed time.
7. Correctly maintain and repair all plumbing on your property. It is also important that any missing or damaged warning signs are replaced.
8. Only use approved recycled water fittings and taps*.
9. Not overwater your garden or allow excess water to runoff.
10. Ensure that recycled water taps are not removed or replaced with conventional taps. This could increase the potential risk of recycled water being misused and could result in a health and safety risk.
11. Ensure that no cross connections of any kind are made between the recycled and drinking water services. It is your responsibility to ensure that no recycled water is accidentally delivered through the drinking water system on your property. This could result in a health and safety risk to the customer.
12. Ensure that only licensed plumbers work on the recycled water system*.

*Refer to Cairns Regional Council *Recycled Water Plumbing Guide* for information on correctly installing recycled water services to your property.

It is Cairns Regional Council's responsibility to:

1. Provide recycled water of a standard that meets or exceeds applicable regulatory guidelines.
2. Monitor the quality of the recycled water supplied to customers. A rigorous and ongoing monitoring program will be in place for all recycled water schemes.
3. Inform and educate customers about recycled water.
4. Inform customers in advance of any audit of plumbing on the property.
5. Regularly inspect, maintain and repair the recycled water system up to, and including, the recycled water meter on your property.

For more information and fact sheets on recycled water use contact Cairns Regional Council on phone: (07) 4044 3044, fax: (07) 40443022 or email: council@cairns.qld.gov.au