



**Unitywater**

Serving you today, investing in tomorrow.

## RECYCLED WATER FACT SHEET

Classes A+ / A / B / C / D

Commercial and industrial customers (fixed site)

### What is recycled water?

- Recycled water is treated effluent. Effluent is everything that is washed down the kitchen, laundry and bathroom sinks, as well as the toilet. After being piped through the sewerage network to sewage treatment plants, the effluent is “cleaned” to standards set by the State Government.
- Unitywater supplies recycled water for a variety of uses including: irrigation (sporting ovals, golf courses, turf farms and nurseries), industrial processes and air-conditioning cooling towers.

### Is recycled water safe?

- When used correctly, recycled water is safe for all approved uses. Appropriate precautions must be considered when using recycled water.
- Customers must use recycled water in accordance with the terms and conditions of their specific recycled water supply agreement and customer site management plan.
- For a list of approved uses for each class, please refer to the table below.
- Unitywater’s recycled water is produced and monitored to meet quality guidelines set by the State Government.

### Why is recycled water being used?

- Using recycled water helps to reduce the amount of nutrients going into our waterways, and saves valuable drinking water for personal use, drinking and hygiene.

### Approved uses for recycled water by class

The following table lists the approved uses for recycled water classes A+/A/B/C and D. Appropriate precautions must be employed at the point of use. A list of appropriate precautions is found on the following page.

Use	Class A+	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D
Irrigation of residential gardens and lawns - above ground	✓	–	–	–	–
Irrigation of residential gardens and lawns - below ground	✓	✓	–	–	–
Filling or topping up of residential “non-drinking water” rainwater tanks - NOT PERMITTED	–	–	–	–	–
Dust suppression, compaction	✓	✓	✓ <sup>a</sup>	–	–
Watering parks, playing fields, footpaths and roadside plants	✓	✓	✓ <sup>a</sup>	✓ <sup>a</sup>	–
Filling fenced ponds, lagoons and dams (not used for recreational purposes)	✓	✓	–	–	–
Filling non-fenced ponds, lagoons and dams (not used for recreational purposes)	✓	–	–	–	–
Road works	✓	✓	✓ <sup>a</sup>	–	–
Washing cars	✓	–	–	–	–
Washing animals (except pigs)	✓	–	–	–	–
Hydraulic testing of sewer infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	✓	–
Irrigation of landscaping on construction site	✓	✓	✓ <sup>a</sup>	–	–
Filling or topping up of swimming pools or spas - NOT PERMITTED	–	–	–	–	–
Irrigating sugar cane destined for non-edible purposes (fixed site users only)	✓	✓	✓	✓ <sup>a</sup>	✓ <sup>a</sup>
Irrigating turf (fixed site users only)	✓	✓	✓	✓ <sup>a</sup>	✓ <sup>a</sup>

- ✓ listed use is approved for this class of recycled water
- listed use not approved for this class of recycled water
- ✓<sup>a</sup> use is accepted only under strict site controls including site management plans



## Precautions for safe use

Recycled water is **not approved for drinking purposes**. Please follow the precautions in the table below and apply normal hygiene practices:

### Precaution

Implement a recycled water management plan for the site. Unitywater customer service will assist you to develop your plan from our template.

Restrict public access to the recycled water by:

- allowing a minimum 30-metre buffer zone between the public and the nearest public access point; and
- ensuring no spray drifts beyond boundaries of the recycled water usage site.

Control any drifting spray by, for example: ensuring low boom spray positions; using large-sized nozzles on spray equipment to create large droplets instead of mist; not using recycled water in windy conditions; or using vegetation screening.

If using recycled water, wash hands with soap and potable water (town water) before eating, drinking or smoking and at the end of the working day.

When using recycled water classes A - D, minimise your exposure to recycled water by:

- wearing waterproof gloves at all times;
- conducting a risk assessment on the use of recycled water in the workplace; and
- ensuring all employees or others exposed to recycled water are trained in appropriate health and safety procedures.

Ensure correct signage is in place in appropriate locations (e.g. high traffic areas adjacent area of use, front reception areas, public congregation areas).

Ensure that recycled water equipment, taps, pipes, tanks etc are appropriately labelled with "recycled water", "non-potable water" or "not for drinking", and that the colour lilac (purple) is used for all pipes and accessories. All taps should be lockable.

Do not irrigate with recycled water if there is a risk that the public will ingest, breathe or make skin contact with droplets.

Do not drink, shower or bathe in recycled water.

After contact with skin, wash immediately with potable water.

Avoid contact with eyes – wear safety glasses or similar.

## First aid measures

- If you accidentally drink recycled water and experience any symptoms such as vomiting and diarrhoea, please seek medical advice.
- If recycled water is splashed into your eyes, flush immediately with ample amounts of potable water.

## Environmental considerations

- Restrict the amount used to avoid ponding of water and minimise runoff into waterways.
- Like our drinking water supplies, recycled water is a precious resource – please use it wisely.

