

WHERE RECYCLED WATER IS USED

Santa Rosa uses about 98% of its tertiary-treated recycled water to irrigate approximately 6,400 acres of farmlands, vineyards, public urban landscaping and for the Geysers Recharge Project to generate electricity.

Nationwide, recycled water is used in thousands of locations. Some California communities have relied on recycled water for over 20 years and it is currently being used in more than 360 locations throughout our state. In addition to Santa Rosa, areas currently using recycled water for irrigation include Rohnert Park, Town of Windsor, San Francisco, Marin County, Los Angeles, Redwood City and Santa Clara County including the Great America amusement park in San Jose.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Is recycled water safe for children playing in parks?

A. Yes, over 1,600 sites in 22 states are irrigated with recycled water. The water is treated to a quality that can be used to supply a recreational lake used for boating and swimming. The California Department of Public Health has determined that the water is essentially “pathogen free.” In other words, this water is carefully monitored and cleaner and safer than water at most beaches.

Q. How can recycled water be used?

A. Water recycling is long past the experimental stage in this country and throughout the world. It is being used for crop irrigation as well as in parks, school playing fields and other open spaces in many states including Arizona, Texas, Florida and California. Some California communities have relied on recycled water for more than 20 years for landscape irrigation at schools, parks, median strips, large landscape areas, and golf courses. Recycled water also is used in office parks, indoor fire protection and toilet flushing in commercial buildings, fountains, and car washes.

Q. Who develops the health standards for recycled water?

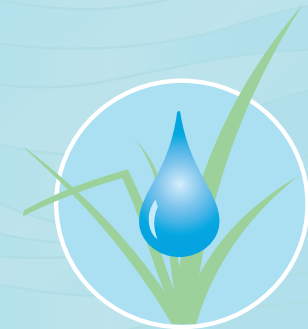
A. The California Department of Public Health (DPH) establishes and enforces the standards for recycled water. Both the City of Santa Rosa and the customers using the water for irrigation must meet State requirements for recycled water. In addition, California Regional Water Quality Control Boards issue water recycling permits based on the established DPH regulations.

Q. With an expanded reuse program, how else will recycled water be used?

A. Under the proposed project, recycled water will be used in various parts of our city, bringing this vital resource to select commercial, industrial, and common area residential landscapes. A series of potential irrigation sites are currently under consideration.

For more information, call (707) 543-4200
or visit www.SRCity.org/RecycledWater

RECYCLED WATER: An Effective Conservation Tool



RECYCLED WATER PROGRAM

Using recycled water for irrigation provides a drought-proof water supply for keeping our landscapes lush and green. It also limits the need to release recycled water into local waterways and it is a locally controlled, reliable source of water that is environmentally responsible. Water recycling is based on the same concepts that drive the recycling of bottles, cans and paper.

Santa Rosa has used recycled water since 1966. Today you will find it irrigating public places like A Place to Play, Finley Park and the Oakmont Golf Course. Recycled water is a valuable, sustainable resource that allows water managers to match water quality to specific reuse applications. This reduces the amount of fresh water required for non drinking uses, ensuring that the best and purest sources of water will be reserved for the highest use - public drinking water.

Santa Rosa is in the process of expanding the use of recycled water to various parts of our city, bringing this vital resource to select commercial, industrial, and common area residential landscapes.

ABOUT RECYCLED WATER

The Santa Rosa Subregional Water Reuse System receives and treats wastewater from more than 225,000 residents and 6,500 businesses in the cities of Cotati, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, the South Park Sanitation District, and portions of unincorporated Sonoma County.

“Water from tubs, toilets and sinks inside homes and offices, travels through pipes to the Subregional System where it is cleaned through a treatment process that is ranked among the top five percent in the world for wastewater treatment technology.”

The result is recycled water — a high-quality, tertiary-treated water that is safe for the irrigation of landscapes, agricultural crops, vegetable crops that are eaten raw, vineyards, playgrounds, golf courses, parks, cemeteries, freeway embankments, and street medians. It is also frequently used in industrial processes, decorative fountains, fire suppression systems and much more. About 11 million gallons per day (MGD) of our Subregional System’s recycled water is sent to The Geysers, where it is pumped into underground steam fields to generate enough electricity for up to 100,000 households. During winter months, the amount sent to The Geysers increases to up to 20 MGD.



RECYCLED WATER IS CLOSELY REGULATED FOR SAFETY

To ensure a consistent level of safety, recycled water is continually regulated, monitored and tested by the Laguna Environmental Laboratory, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the Department of Public Health.

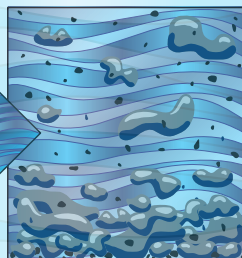
This ensures water quality that far exceeds its intended use. In thousands of applications throughout the U.S., there has never been a documented illness from recycled water use. Consistent inspections and strict regulations are also in place to ensure that the drinking and recycled water systems remain separate. Nature has recycled water for millions of years. By duplicating much of nature’s process, it is now possible for us to purify water to a level that is higher than our drinking water standards.

HOW RECYCLED WATER IS MADE

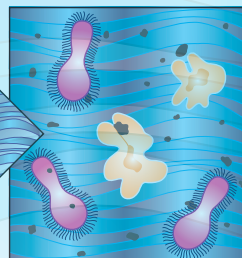
These steps are necessary before Santa Rosa’s recycled water is used for agricultural or landscape irrigation, delivered to The Geysers’ Project, or released into the Russian River.



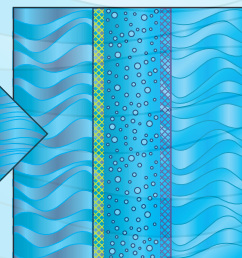
Wastewater from our homes and businesses enters the wastewater treatment plant.



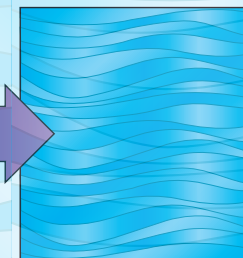
Solid matter is settled out of the wastewater and removed.



Friendly bacteria digest any leftover solid material and further clean the wastewater.



The water is processed through filters and then disinfected by ultraviolet light to protect the public’s health.



The fully treated recycled water is pumped from the treatment plant through a system of purple pipes to various customers in the area. Purple pipes are used exclusively for conveying recycled water in order to clearly distinguish them from drinking water lines.

