



RECYCLED WATER AT HOME

RECYCLED WATER OFFERS A NUMBER OF BENEFITS FOR CUSTOMERS. IT CAN BE ACCESSED ALL YEAR ROUND EVEN IN DROUGHT, IS GENERALLY CHEAPER THAN DRINKING WATER, AND REDUCES DEMAND ON OUR DRINKING WATER SUPPLY.



Recycled water is safe for:

- ✓ Toilet flushing
- ✓ Washing cars and external surfaces
- ✓ Watering lawns and gardens including fruit and vegetable gardens, just rinse your produce in drinking water before eating
- ✓ Washing machines
- ✓ Construction purposes like concrete mixing.

It should not be used for:

- ✗ Drinking
- ✗ Cooking, washing up or other uses in the kitchen
- ✗ Baths, showers, hand basins and bidets
- ✗ Cleaning inside the home
- ✗ Swimming pools, spas and ponds
- ✗ Use in evaporative coolers
- ✗ Washing pets or as drinking water for pets
- ✗ Water play activities like playing under the sprinkler or slip n slides.

Look for PURPLE

Your recycled water meter, pipes, taps and other fittings are **purple** so they're easily recognised.

All recycled water taps should be labelled.



Remove outdoor tap handles

All handles on outdoor recycled water taps are removable.

Please remove the handles to reduce the risk of children using recycled water.

Always use a licensed plumber

Your plumber will ensure there are no cross connections between your drinking and recycled water pipes.

They will also check fittings, labels and colour-coding, and make sure your plumbing complies with the *Plumbing Code of Australia*.

QUICK CHECKS YOU CAN DO AT HOME

You can carry out the following quick checks on your plumbing to help ensure your recycled and drinking water systems are working correctly.

Cross-connection check

A cross-connection occurs when recycled and drinking water pipes are accidentally connected. To avoid this, please make sure all plumbing works at your home are carried out by a licensed plumber.

A cross-connection check is a quick way to see whether your recycled water is separate from your drinking water. This check should be performed after any changes or additions to the plumbing on your property, or on an annual basis:

Step 1

Turn off your drinking water meter. Leave the recycled water meter (purple) on.

Step 2

Slowly turn on and off each hot and cold tap in the laundry, bathroom and kitchen. Each tap should run dry very quickly. **If a tap keeps running, it may be connected to recycled water. You should contact Hunter Water immediately on 1300 657 000.**

Step 3

Go outside and turn each tap on and off. The taps outside connected to drinking water should not run. The outside recycled water (purple) taps should continue to run as normal.

Step 4

Make sure all taps are turned off. Slowly turn your drinking water meter back on. Turn all taps on slowly next time you use them, as there may be air in the pipes for a short time.

Check your outside taps

Vacuum breakers, which stop recycled water flowing back into drinking water pipes, are attached to your outdoor drinking water taps and must not be removed.

Previous owners or tenants may have removed vacuum breakers or changed tap handles. Please check your outside taps.

✓ Drinking water tap fitted with vacuum breaker



Pressure reducing valve

A pressure reducing valve (PRV) can be installed on your drinking water service, in line with the Australian Standard AS/NZS 3500 Plumbing and Drainage. However, we recommend that the internal pressure of your drinking water service be higher than that of your recycled water service. This is to reduce the risk of recycled water entering your drinking water services if a cross connection occurs.

PRV example



Hunter Water may restrict or disconnect the services to your property if you use your recycled water in a manner inconsistent with its intended purpose or in a manner contrary to the information we provide about the safe use of recycled water.

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