

## Reclaimed water is highly treated domestic wastewater that can be used for irrigation and other uses to extend our water supplies.

Up to 50 percent of a community's drinking water is used for irrigation. Much of this irrigation water could be replaced with **reclaimed water** that is provided by water reuse facilities and delivered in purple-colored pipes.

### Benefits of Water Reuse

- ⇒ Costs less than drinking water
- ⇒ Reduces fertilizer use, as some nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus remain in the reclaimed water
- ⇒ Reduces stress on drinking water supplies
- ⇒ Reduces disposal into waterways, which can help reduce nutrient loads in bays and rivers

Water efficiently, reduce fertilizer usage, and never let reclaimed water run needlessly into the street.



### Reclaimed water *can* be used for:



- ✓ Irrigation of lawns, landscapes, and golf courses
- ✓ Street-sweeping operations
- ✓ Car and bus washing
- ✓ Power generation
- ✓ Decorative fountains
- ✓ Fire protection (purple fire hydrants)
- ✓ Dust control
- ✓ Groundwater recharge
- ✓ Cooling or makeup water for a variety of industrial processes
- ✓ Natural system restoration

### Reclaimed water *can't* be used for:

- ⊗ Body-contact recreation (including swimming pools and spas)
- ⊗ Cooking or drinking (do not connect house pipes to the purple pipe)
- ⊗ Irrigating vegetable and herb gardens (unless a drip or bubbler system is used—always wash your produce)

“Do Not Drink”  
“No Beber”



### The wastewater-to-reclaimed water process

1. Screening and other processes to remove sand and debris;
2. Sedimentation for removing large solids;
3. Aeration so that microorganisms can break down organic materials;
4. Clarification to remove those microorganisms and any remaining solids;
5. Filtration to make water crystal clear; and
6. Disinfection, with chlorine or UV radiation, for killing pathogens and bacteria

*Water reuse facilities are constantly monitored to ensure that only high-quality reclaimed water is distributed. This water is sparkling clear and essentially pathogen-free. Decades of experience has demonstrated that the use of reclaimed water in urban and commercial settings is both a safe and a reliable source of water.*



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*Use it Again, Florida!*