

Mission Statement

Broward County Water and Wastewater Services is committed to being a benchmark comprehensive utility providing exceptional retail and regional water and wastewater management services and programs to its customers; supporting continuous improvement while maintaining the quality of life in Broward County through sound environmental practices.



Water and Wastewater Services
2555 West Copans Road
Pompano Beach, FL 33069

**A SERVICE OF THE BROWARD
COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**

2,500 copies of this public document were promulgated at a cost of \$625.00, or \$0.25 per copy, to provide the public with information about Water and Wastewater Services.



The Truth about Reclaimed Water



Broward.org/waterservices

Here's The Truth:

Reclaimed water, often called reused or recycled water, plays an important role in water resource, wastewater and ecosystem management. When reclaimed water is used, it eases the demand on traditional, often limited, sources of water. By recycling or reusing water, communities can still grow while minimizing or even reducing their impact on the water resources around them.

Q: What is reclaimed/ reused / recycled water?

A: It's highly treated wastewater. Reclaimed water has a good, clear appearance, is nonstaining and odorless, and is bacteriologically safe. It contains low levels of nitrogen and phosphorus which are beneficial to plant and turf growth and may reduce the amount of fertilizer needed to maintain lawns and landscapes. It is NOT sewage.



Q: Is reclaimed water safe?

A: Reclaimed water must meet strict standards established and regulated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). These standards require high levels of treatment, including filtration and disinfection, and continuous monitoring of water quality. There is no known danger to an individual's health from contact when reclaimed water is used for its intended purpose.



Q: How is reclaimed water used in Broward County?

A: Reclaimed water is used for landscape irrigation purposes, such as for golf courses and publicly owned medians and residential and commercial properties.



Q: Where does Broward County's supply of drinking water come from?

A: South Florida's main source for its drinking water supply is the Biscayne Aquifer, which lies 50 to 200 feet underground. The backup source is the Floridan Aquifer. Both are constantly being replenished by the area's abundant amount of rainfall, particularly during the rainy season, June 1st through November 30th of each year. As groundwater sources, the Aquifers are naturally protected from undesirable microbial pathogens that are common in surface water supplies. This is due to the natural filtration that occurs in the Aquifers and the amount of time the water resides in the ground prior to being withdrawn.

Q: How is reclaimed water kept separate from drinking water?

A: Reclaimed water is carried in purple colored pipes. Purple, the universal symbol of recycled or reclaimed water, is used in order to distinguish them from potable water lines, which are blue. Drinking water systems and wastewater systems are entirely separate. No cross-connections of any kind are permitted.



Did You Know?

- Reclaimed water is highly engineered for safety and reliability so that the quality is more predictable than many existing surface and groundwater sources.
- Florida leads the nation in the use of reclaimed water, utilizing 797 million gallons per day. Even so, the state is only taking advantage of a fraction of its potential reuse opportunities.
- Millions of people eat or drink juice from Florida oranges grown with reclaimed water.
- There are no known cases of disease resulting from eating fruit or vegetables grown with reclaimed water that meets Florida's standards.
- Reclaiming water means water that would otherwise be wasted is used for beneficial purposes, in turn saving our drinking water resources.
- Broward County Water and Wastewater Services (WWS) treats an average of 70 million gallons of wastewater per day. Of that, seven percent or five million gallons per day are reclaimed.

Broward County Water and Wastewater Services continues to plan for the future by preserving and responsibly utilizing our community's resources. We've partnered with Palm Beach County Utilities to develop a Regional Reclaimed Water System to serve southern Palm Beach County and portions of extreme northern Broward County with reclaimed water from the North Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is owned and operated by WWS. This project is expected to recover up to 21 million gallons per day of water which can be used for irrigation. This regional approach will benefit reclaimed water customers and the environment, and will save Broward County up to \$385 million in future capital costs.