

Recycled water

HOW TO CONNECT TO CLASS B & C

What is recycled water?

Recycled water is wastewater that has been collected and treated so that it can be used for a variety of purposes.

Recycled water is treated to a high standard to allow for this valuable resource to be used to support agricultural growth, healthy green landscapes and reduces the need to transfer bulk water from outside of the region.

Recycled water classes

Western Water produces three classes of recycled water: Class A, B and C, based on the level of treatment and water quality.

The class of water determines what the water can be used for. The acceptable uses for recycled water are outlined below.

Western Water produces Class A, B and C recycled water in accordance with guidance provided by Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

When could I have it?

After your recycled water supply has been approved Western Water aims to provide you with a recycled water supply in approximately 6 weeks if you are very close to a recycled water main. This timeframe can vary depending on the volume requested and the distance from the point of supply.

There are a number of factors which will determine if you can be connected to recycled water. A key decision is whether it will be financially viable to construct a pipeline to your property.

What are my ongoing responsibilities?

Your Customer Site Management Plan (CSMP) developed in partnership with Western Water will outline your ongoing responsibility for using recycled water.

These include:

- Submit a compliance statement annually
- Display signs to show recycled water is in use
- Colour any above ground assets purple
- Keep public off property for 4 hours after irrigation
- Ensure you only use recycled water for approved uses



WHERE IS RECYCLED WATER BEING USED LOCALLY?

Within the Western Water region, recycled water is being used by agricultural customers for fodder crops, fruit orchards, grapes and olives.

Recycled water is also used to irrigate many of the region's sporting grounds and open spaces as well as school ovals, local botanic gardens and in landscaping.

For the latest Class B & C recycled water charges visit our website

Customers may wish to treat their recycled water to a higher standard to ensure it is right for their intended use, depending on the use this may require Environment Protection Authority (EPA) approval.

FACT SHEET HOW TO CONNECT TO CLASS B & C RECYCLED WATER

Acceptable Uses of Class A, B and C recycled water

Class C recycled water	Examples
Municipal water use	Public parks, gardens and sports grounds
Human food crops grown over a meter above the ground and eaten raw	Apples, pears, apricots, table grapes
Human food crops cooked or processed before sale to customers	Wheat, wine grapes, olives
Non-human food production	Irrigation of pasture and fodder for grazing animals, including sheep, goats and horses (excluding pigs and some cattle).
Industrial	Boiler feed cooling or quench water
Non-food crops and aquaculture	Industrial turf growing, woodlots, forestry, flowers and aquaculture not for human consumption
Class B recycled water (plus all Class C uses as listed above)	
Stock water	Water for stock to drink (excluding pigs)
Class A recycled water (plus all Class B & C uses as listed above)	
Human food crops eaten uncooked	Lettuce, cucumber, cabbage
Fire fighting	
Garden watering	
Car washing	

Steps to get connected to Class B & C recycled water

Western Water aims to make getting connected to recycled water as simple as possible. There are 5 steps to get recycled water connected to your property.

A Western Water staff member will be allocated to your application and will help guide you through the process.

Step 1 Expression of interest form - is your property and intended use suitable to receive recycled water? We need to consider how close your property is located to an existing recycled water pipeline.

Step 2 Application form - if your property is suitable, how much recycled water do you need and what time of the year would you like to receive it? An application fee equal to one third of the once-off entitlement charge needs to be paid as a deposit. It is calculated on how many millions of litres (ML) of recycled water you require over the year.

Step 3 Customer Site Management Plan - Western Water staff will visit your property to develop a Customer Site Management Plan. You'll need to undertake soil sampling to confirm that your soil is suitable at this stage.

Step 4 Recycled Water Supply Agreement - this is a legally binding agreement which outlines the commitments of the customer and Western Water. The remainder of the once-off entitlement charge will now need to be paid.

Step 5 Construct pipeline - A recycled water pipeline will be constructed to your property. You're responsible for internal connection.

