

IRRIGATING WITH RECLAIMED WATER



Welcome to Holly Springs! If your neighborhood or business is located in the Town's reclaimed water system service area, reclaimed water is available to you for irrigation purposes.

By using reclaimed water responsibly, you are helping conserve drinking water reserves and protecting our natural environment while saving money on water expenses.



WHAT IS RECLAIMED WATER?

Reclaimed water is wastewater that has undergone advanced treatment to be "reused" for purposes other than drinking. An environmentally friendly product, reclaimed water minimizes the amount of drinking water that must be produced to meet water needs.

Reclaimed water is safe, and contact with it will not cause harm to people, pets or property. However, use is regulated by the State to minimize direct human contact.

In Holly Springs, reclaimed water is produced at the Town's Utley Creek Water Reclamation Facility. Reclaimed water can be identified by the lavender or purple colored pipes, meter boxes and other system components. This coloring is a rule mandated by the State of North Carolina for reclaimed water systems. So, "think purple" when using reclaimed water!

HOW CAN I USE RECLAIMED WATER?

Residential and business customers may use reclaimed water for landscape irrigation, especially in irrigation systems designed or converted to comply with reclaimed water irrigation requirements. Use reclaimed water for:

- Watering lawns, trees, flower beds
- Decorative ponds and fountains with no drain to surface waters or storm drains
- Pesticide and fertilizer application (water from a bulk loading station can be used for this)
- Concrete mixing (water from a bulk loading station can be used for this)

Reclaimed water also can be used for a limited number of other purposes. Contact Holly Springs Utilities & Infrastructure at (919) 577-3150 to see if your business can benefit from reclaimed water and learn more about bulk reclaimed water.





HOW CAN I GET RECLAIMED WATER?

Properties with access to reclaimed water available have two water meter boxes at the street. Your drinking water meter has a standard gray lid. Your reclaimed water meter has a purple lid.

If you have a reclaimed meter box and already have an irrigation system, the irrigation system is connected to the reclaimed water system.

If you don't have an irrigation system but want to install one, or if you have one and want to modify it, you must contact the Town to initiate the permitting and approval process. Call us for more information at 311 or (919) 577-3111.

RECLAIMED IRRIGATION SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

- Must receive permits from the Town of Holly Springs.
- Reclaimed irrigation systems have been specially designed for distributing reclaimed water. Changing the timing, programming or heads in your system should only be performed by a licensed irrigation contractor in order to ensure that Town and State requirements are met.
- The rainfall sensor must also be connected and function at all times.

WHY DO I NEED A PERMIT?

North Carolina requires the Town to review and approve all usage of reclaimed water. After meeting all requirements established by the Town, you may be permitted to use reclaimed water.



ARE THERE ANY LIMITATIONS TO USING RECLAIMED WATER?

Reclaimed water should not be used for:

- Irrigation during inclement weather (rain)
- Drinking
- Watering or bathing pets
- Washing vehicles
- Filling swimming pools or hot tubs
- Recreational uses
- Watering food crops
- Flushing toilets

Don't water excessively or allow runoff from irrigated areas to run into the street, ditches or streams. Never connect a reclaimed water hose to your home's plumbing.

In general, reclaimed water cannot be applied within 25 feet of ponds, streams or wetlands. It cannot be applied within 100 feet of a well. These buffers will be identified when you apply for an irrigation system permit.

Hose bibs are not allowed on the reclaimed system.



BEST PRACTICES

Incidental contact with reclaimed water is not harmful.

- It is safe to walk on grass that is being irrigated with reclaimed water. However, don't allow children to play under the reclaimed sprinklers during use.
- Do practice good hygiene - wash with soap and water from a potable faucet if you come in contact with reclaimed water.
- Do not use reclaimed water containers to also hold drinking water.
- Do not store reclaimed water for over 72 hours.
- Properly use reclaimed water or return it to the sewer system.

MALFUNCTIONS OR VIOLATIONS

If any part of your reclaimed system malfunctions (i.e. a line break, leak, rainfall sensor or controller failure, etc.) or if you suspect you may have a violation of allowed uses, take the following actions:

- Immediately stop the water flow.
- Report the incident to the Town at (919) 577-3150 immediately.
- Repair or replace damaged equipment before turning the water on.

Owners who report and correct accidental violations will not be penalized. However, negligence and intentional or malicious acts will be subject to enforcement actions and/or penalties per Town ordinances and policies.

