



# RECYCLED WATER GUIDE #3: CUSTOMER RESPONSIBILITIES

UNDERSTANDING HOW TO PROPERLY USE  
RECYCLED WATER AT YOUR HOME

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## WHY DO I NEED TO HANDLE RECYCLED WATER DIFFERENTLY FROM POTABLE WATER?

Independence is committed to sustainable strategies to preserve our groundwater supply. A part of the strategy is to use recycled water for outdoor irrigation – including private residences. Presently, customers in Independence can use recycled water for the irrigation of lawns, trees, shrubs, and other landscape plants.

Recycled water is highly treated wastewater that can be used for outdoor irrigation and is regulated by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (Regulation 84). The Independence Water and Sanitation District's (District) recycled water is treated to high levels and can be used for the irrigation of parks, open spaces, and customers' yards.

In Colorado, Regulation 84 governs how recycled water is to be provided by the District. It regulates water quality standards to ensure the water is safe for the public. However, recycled water is not potable; thus, the customer must also be aware of and follow certain procedures to make sure that once delivered to the property, it is utilized in a manner that maintains its safety.

The following are procedures to ensure recycled water is used in a safe manner while preserving it and reducing waste.

### CUSTOMER RESPONSIBILITY #1:

#### OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR NEW AND MODIFIED LANDSCAPING AT YOUR PROPERTY

- Follow the process outlined in Guide #2 (“Steps for Landscaping Plan Approval and Installation”).
- If you decide to change your landscaping in the future, or you are a new homeowner that would like to change the existing landscaping, also follow the steps outlined in Guide #2.
- Make sure any contractors that work on the landscaping irrigation system are trained in recycled water practices. The District will conduct training with those contractors and has a list of contractors that are approved.

### CUSTOMER RESPONSIBILITY #2:

#### KNOW WHAT YOU CAN IRRIGATE WITH RECYCLED WATER

It is important that all homeowners, members of the household, and guests know the appropriate ways to use recycled water:

- Grass, shrubs, trees, and flower beds are allowed.
- Inform guests about what recycled water can and cannot be used for.
- Use the exterior hose bid on your house for drinking and for the items listed below.

#### Do NOT use recycled water for the following:

- Drinking (including for pets)
- Children's toys and wading pools
- Vegetable garden irrigation
- Hot tubs
- Washing of cars, driveways, sidewalks, fence, or home siding

### **CUSTOMER RESPONSIBILITY #3:**

#### **ADHERE TO SAFE PRACTICES FOR RECYCLED WATER**

There are certain safety practices that will keep you and your family safe. Some will also improve conservation and help preserve this valuable resource:

- Wash your hands if you come into contact with recycled water.
- Inform family members and guests about safe practices, as well as the benefits of recycled water.
- Cooperate with District representatives when a site inspection is requested.
- Direct sprinklers away from sidewalks, fences, driveways, decks, patios, seating areas, and vegetable gardens.
- Avoid playing in the sprinklers or having unnecessary contact with recycled water or recently irrigated areas.

### **CUSTOMER RESPONSIBILITY #4:**

#### **FOLLOW WATERING SCHEDULES AND EFFICIENT PRACTICES**

Using recycled water responsibly prevents unnecessary runoff and discharge from your yard. Decreasing waste will preserve the availability of recycled water for the entire community and can reduce your water bill. Below is the District's watering schedule:

- Addresses ending in even numbers: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
- Addresses ending in odd numbers: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
- Water hours: between 7:00 PM and 10:00 AM on designated days

Outdoor watering is not permitted on Sundays or between 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

**In addition, the following are other practices to follow to ensure efficient use:**

- Adjust sprinkler heads monthly to prevent overspray.
- Repair leaks promptly.
- Follow the tips and techniques outlined in Guide #4 ("Outdoor Watering Tips and Techniques").
- Avoid overwatering areas and allow runoff or ponding.
- Don't irrigate when it has recently rained.

### **CUSTOMER RESPONSIBILITY #5:**

#### **BUY PURPLE**

Per Regulation 84, irrigation pipes, sprinkler heads, and valve boxes should be the color purple. Most major manufacturers of these parts have them in purple, as it is a national standard. Furthermore, landscape contractors should know about this standard.

- Make sure your landscape contractor installs buried pipes, sprinkler heads, and valve box lids that are purple.
- Buy purple-colored parts for future replacements and additions.