

## RECYCLED WATER FOR HOMES



USING RECYCLED WATER AROUND THE HOME FOR THINGS LIKE WATERING THE GARDEN AND WASHING CARS SAVES OUR DRINKING WATER FOR DRINKING.

### RECYCLING WILL PROVIDE 10% OF THE LOWER HUNTER'S WATER SUPPLY

Currently the lower Hunter Region recycles around 4.5 billion litres of wastewater a year. By 2014, we'll be recycling 8 billion litres of wastewater a year.

In the coming months Hunter Water will provide new residential developments in Thornton North, North Cooranbong and Gilleston Heights with two water supplies - recycled water and drinking water. This is known as dual reticulation. The recycled water taps, pipes and plumbing are coloured **purple** to make sure that recycled water is not confused with drinking water.

Recycled water is wastewater that has been treated to a very high standard - going through a series of processes including microfiltration and ultraviolet disinfection, on top of the usual wastewater treatment process. Wastewater is water that has

been used by homes, businesses and approved industries and then discharged to the wastewater transport (sewerage) system. It is transported to wastewater treatment works for rehabilitation and then either reused or returned to the water system.

In order to educate customers and suppliers Hunter Water has developed a new display to take to community events and prepared fact sheets to ensure all residents and plumbers in dual reticulation areas are aware of their key roles and



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responsibilities.

Current plans for dual reticulation schemes will service about 10,200 homes, this will use 1.2 billion litres of recycled water each year for flushing toilets, watering gardens, washing cars and other outdoor uses.

## WHY WE RECYCLE WATER

Water is not just important for drinking and washing - insufficient water means we cannot grow adequate food supplies or maintain industry.

Recycling water provides real flexibility and benefits in our drought prone climate by replacing and thereby conserving potable water.

To ensure that recycled water is not confused with drinking water it is delivered through a completely separate pipe system.

## BENEFITS OF RECYCLED WATER

By using recycled water you can reduce your drinking water usage by up to 40%, saving you money, as recycled water is charged at the lowest water rate.

Recycled water is not subject to water restrictions, so you can maintain green, lush gardens.

As a user of recycled water,

you will be playing a vital role in ensuring Australia's sustainable future.

## YOU CAN USE RECYCLED WATER FOR:

- flushing toilets
- watering the garden
- washing cars & homes (external)
- washing outdoor furniture
- general fire fighting (subject to NSW Fire Brigades)
- washing clothes (optional)
- ornamental ponds/water features

## YOU CAN'T USE RECYCLED WATER FOR

- human or animal drinking
- household cleaning
- cooking or other kitchen purposes
- bathing and showering
- swimming pools and spas
- evaporative coolers
- children's water toys
- bidet sprays
- recreation involving water contact such as playing under sprinklers.

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

RECYCLED TAPS, PIPES AND PLUMBING ARE COLOURED PURPLE

THE RECYCLED WATER TAPS, MUST BE IDENTIFIED 'RECYCLED WATER – DO NOT DRINK' TO MAKE SURE THAT RECYCLED WATER IS NOT CONFUSED WITH DRINKING WATER.

RECYLED WATER CAN SAVE YOU MONEY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

RECYCLED WATER IS NOT SUBJECT TO WATER RESTRICTIONS

