



Municipal Water District

Where does recycled water come from?

Recycled water is wastewater that has been purified through a series of treatment processes. The District can provide this sustainable, locally produced supply of water for landscape irrigation at schools, parks, HOA common areas, street landscaping, golf courses, etc. The District's recycled water meets the strict standards of the California State Department of Health Services, and the use of recycled water conserves the regions supply of drinking water.

The Olivenhain Municipal Water District's 4S Ranch Water Reclamation Facility utilizes three treatment processes in the production of recycled water; Primary treatment which removes all debris and inorganic material from the water, Secondary treatment which is a biological treatment process where microorganisms metabolize all organic material, and Tertiary treatment which polishes the water through filtration, and disinfects the water through the use of UV energy.

According to these standards, tertiary-treated recycled water is safe for all human contact, except drinking.

Why is Olivenhain Municipal Water District recycling water?

Recycled water is reliable – Even in times of drought when restrictions are placed on the use of potable (drinking) water for non-essential uses like landscape irrigation, recycled water is readily available. During periods of mandatory cutbacks and water rationing, recycled water can save an investment of hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of commercial landscaping.

Recycled water is competitively priced – Because it's locally produced, the Olivenhain Municipal Water District can provide recycled water at a per unit rate which is less than the potable water irrigation water rate. Recycled water currently costs 90% of the potable water irrigation rate.

Recycled water's nutrients reduce fertilizer costs – Some harmless nutrients survive the wastewater treatment process, giving recycled water an added benefit. Many recycled water customers have discovered that fertilizer costs are reduced for landscaping irrigated with recycled water.



What is recycled water used for?

Within the Olivenhain Municipal Water District service areas, recycled water is provided for irrigation of Homeowner Association common areas, school grounds, parks and golf courses.

Who Benefits from Recycled Water use?

Everyone benefits from recycled water. As the population in California continues to grow from the current 32 million to an estimated 52 million people by the year 2030, so does the demand on our limited water supply. Since our drinking water supply is limited, finding ways to conserve our supply is critical. By using recycled water for irrigation, we can conserve our precious drinking water supply while providing a reliable, growing, and drought-proof source of additional water.

Is Recycled Water Safe to Use?

Yes! Recycled water is made by purifying wastewater. It is given additional disinfection and filtration processes that make it safe for irrigation. Recycled water is carefully monitored to protect public health and safety, and is strictly regulated by the local and state Health Departments and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. It is safely used at hundreds of parks, schools, greenbelts, agricultural operations, and golf courses throughout California. The recycled water pipeline system is completely separate from your drinking water system.

What Will Happen if My Pet Accidentally Drinks Recycled Water?

Recycled water is almost as pure as drinking water. It has been carefully treated and has been disinfected to kill microorganisms. As a result of this treatment, recycled water is perfect to use as a supply of landscape irrigation. Even if you or a family pet swallowed recycled water, it should not make you sick. It may still contain some nutrients or dissolved metals and salts that keep it from meeting our strict drinking water standards.

How long has recycled water been used?

Water recycling is practiced worldwide. California has been a pioneer in water recycling for over 50 years. In California there are over 250 water recycling plants in operation. California's first water recycling project began in 1929 when the City of Pomona provided treated wastewater from its municipal sewage treatment plant for landscape irrigation. The first plant built solely for recycling and reuse was constructed in 1932 in San Francisco to irrigate Golden Gate Park.

Can Someone from Olivenhain Municipal Water District Address Recycled Water concerns/questions at my Homeowner's Association or Club Meeting?

Yes, if your group or association is located within the Olivenhain Municipal Water District service area, we can provide you with a presentation about recycled water use. You can schedule a presentation by contacting the District at (760) 753-6466.

