



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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Purple Prevails During Water Reuse Week

Florida leads the nation in water reuse, reducing demand on traditional water supplies



The color purple is used to identify pumps, tanks and pipes carrying reclaimed water.

(Click on the image for a larger version.)

South Florida Reuse Facts:

- More than 127,000 residents, 238 parks, 203 golf courses and 73 schools are using reclaimed water for irrigation within the SFWMD.
- An average of 720 million gallons per day (MGD) of reclaimed water are reused every day in all of Florida.
- 271 MGD of this amount is used in the SFWMD.
- Reclaimed water is great for landscape irrigation, and doesn't stain sidewalks or buildings.

West Palm Beach, FL – The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board is recognizing May 17–23, 2015, as Water Reuse Week to promote the benefits of using reclaimed water as part of a continuing effort to protect regional water supplies.

“Water reuse is an essential part of our comprehensive strategy to ensure reliable supplies of water for the future,” said SFWMD Executive Director Blake Guillory, P.E., who also is on the board of directors for the national WateReuse Association. “Better technologies are now available to implement water reuse, providing long-term benefits to all water users, the environment and our regional economy.”

Only one percent of the water on earth is fit for drinking, and all water on the planet is essentially reused. Designer water technologies, which customize treatment levels for an array of applications, are available today to meet any water need; residential, commercial, agricultural or industrial.

Reclaimed water projects ease demand on traditional sources of water and reduce discharges into the ocean. Florida leads the nation in water reuse. Within the District's 16-county region, more than 110 reuse systems produce and reuse 271 million gallons of reclaimed water per day.

Water reuse involves treating domestic wastewater and using the resulting high-quality reclaimed water for a beneficial purpose. Extensive treatment and disinfection ensure that public health and environmental quality are protected.

Reclaimed water can be used for many purposes, including:

- Irrigation of golf courses, parks, residential properties, highway medians and other green space
- Commercial use such as car and airplane washing, mixing concrete, laundry, cooling and air conditioning
- Saltwater intrusion barriers
- Aesthetic landscape features, such as decorative lakes, ponds and fountains
- Agricultural irrigation
- Environmental restoration and wetland creation
- Groundwater recharge

Communities that reuse water are able to grow in size while minimizing or even reducing their impact on the water resources they depend on. In addition, use of reclaimed water allows communities to postpone or minimize their capital investments in developing new, more costly water sources and supplies. Further, reclaimed water is exempt from SFWMD landscape irrigation restrictions.

The SFWMD, along with local governments and organizations throughout the state, recognizes Water Reuse Week each year during the third full week of May, just as the dry season comes to an end.

For more information:

- [SFWMD's Water Reuse web page](#)
- [Below the Surface fact sheet: Water Reuse](#)
- [Department of Environmental Protection's Water Reuse web page](#)
- [SFWMD's Comprehensive Water Conservation Program and Water-Saving Tips](#)

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About the South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.