

Connecting to Tampa's reclaimed water system is easy ... here's how!

Thank you for signing up to be a reclaimed water customer. If the City of Tampa has not already done so, it will soon install a reclaimed water meter at your property. Once you are informed the meter is installed and the system is active in your area, it will be time to connect your in-ground irrigation system to the reclaimed water meter.

IMPORTANT! *Please do not disconnect your irrigation system from the potable (drinking) water meter before the City notifies you that the system is activated in your area and before verifying that your reclaimed meter is installed. This could leave you without a way to water your lawn.*

Step 1: Decide who will do the work

If you have an irrigation system connected to the City's potable (drinking) water, you must first decide who will connect your system to the reclaimed water meter. You may do work yourself or hire a licensed irrigation contractor or licensed plumber. The work involves identifying any cross connections between the irrigation and potable water system and properly disconnecting them before connecting to the reclaimed water meter.

It is highly recommended that customers do not attempt this work themselves unless they have significant "do-it-yourself" experience with plumbing and irrigation systems.

Contact a reclaimed water customer service representative at (813) 282-7827 for assistance determining what work may be required. A member of our reclaimed water team will help you make necessary determinations and be able to answer any questions.

If you decide to hire a licensed plumber or licensed irrigation contractor, we recommend you get at least three competitive bids and consider seeking volume discounts by "shopping as a group" with your neighbors. Prices may vary depending on a number of factors, such as:

- ⇒ The number of connections between your irrigation and potable water system and the accessibility of those connection points.
- ⇒ The proximity of your irrigation system to the reclaimed meter and any obstructions between.
- ⇒ Having to connecting existing hose bibbs, pool top-off lines, outdoor showers or other fixtures previously connected to your irrigation system, to your potable water system.
- ⇒ If you plan to install a cam lock reclaimed hose connection on your irrigation system. The connection must comply with the Florida Building Code/Plumbing, as well as with all City of Tampa and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) rules.

Step 2: Apply for a permit

A permit must be obtained by the person performing the work, and the connection must pass a City inspection before reclaimed water will be available for use. Permits are available through the City of Tampa Construction Services Center at 1400 North Boulevard and typically can be processed the same business. The permit fee is \$41.50 and helps defray the City's expense of inspecting the work.

At the time of application the City will provide an "Affidavit of Completion", which lists the steps for making a proper connection. The affidavit must be signed by the person who obtained the permit and

performed the work, and provided to the City inspector at the time of inspection. Please call (813) 274-3100 for permit information.

Step 3: Complete the work

Locate, disconnect and cap all connection points between your irrigation system and potable water system. Detach and permanently cap any spigots, hose bibbs, pool top-off lines, outdoor showers or other fixtures connected to your irrigation system. Connect the irrigation system to the reclaimed water meter by following the steps listed in the "Affidavit of Completion" provided by the City.

Step 4: Get an inspection

After the work is completed, but before any connection points are covered with backfill, call (813) 274-3100 for a City inspection. The inspection time will be coordinated with you because the inspector will need access to your home. The inspector will ensure your reclaimed system complies with all applicable state and local building codes, and FDEP rules. The inspector must be given the signed "Affidavit of Completion" at the time of inspection. After passing the inspection, please arrange to fill in any connection points that were left open for the inspection.

Step 5: Begin irrigating with reclaimed water

You may begin irrigating once you have passed the inspection. The City will meter your reclaimed water use and bill you for it as a separate line item on your City utility bill. For current rate information, call (813) 282-7827 or log on to TampaGov.net/ReclaimedWater.

Please note: If you have an existing irrigation meter it will be removed by the City once you are connected to the reclaimed water system.

Customers without in-ground irrigation

If you signed up to be a reclaimed water customer and do not have an in-ground irrigation system, you may purchase and install a cam lock reclaimed hose connection that complies with the Florida Building Code/Plumbing, and all City of Tampa and FDEP rules. A City of Tampa permit must be obtained by the person who will be performing the work and the connection must pass a City inspection before reclaimed water will be made available to the customer. For additional permit information, please call (813) 274-3100.

If you plan to install a new irrigation system:

You will be required to obtain two City of Tampa permits - one to install the irrigation system and one to connect the irrigation system to the reclaimed water meter. The permits must be obtained by the person who will be performing the work and the connection must pass a City inspection before reclaimed water will be made available to the customer.

If an existing irrigation system is connected to a well:

As with all reclaimed water connections, a City of Tampa permit must be obtained by the person who will be performing the work and the connection must pass a City inspection before reclaimed water will be made available to the customer.



Tampa Water Department

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09/07



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Getting Connected to Tampa's
Reclaimed Water System

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