

Fact Sheet

Getting Connected to Reclaimed Water

If you do not have a reclaimed water meter installed on your property, please contact a customer service representative at (813) 274-8811, option #3, to ask about availability in your area. Once a reclaimed water meter is installed at your location, you can start the 5-step transition to reclaimed water process. Do not disconnect your irrigation system from the potable water meter until you have obtained a permit and are ready to complete the work to ensure continuous access to irrigation water.

Step 1: Decide Who Will Do the Work

You may do the work yourself or you may hire a licensed irrigation contractor or licensed plumber to connect your irrigation system to reclaimed water. 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.

If you decide to hire a licensed plumber or licensed irrigation contractor, we recommend that you get at least three estimates for best pricing. Prices may vary depending on a number of factors, such as:

- Number of connections between your irrigation and potable water system and the accessibility of those connections.
- The proximity of your irrigation system to the reclaimed water meter and any obstructions between.
- Need to connect (or reconnect) existing hose bibbs, pool top-off lines, outdoor showers and other outdoor water fixtures to the potable water meter.
- Installation of a cam lock reclaimed hose connection on your irrigation system.

Step 2: Apply for a Permit

A plumbing permit must be obtained by the person performing the work, and the connection must pass 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 are processed the day of application. 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 be provided to the City inspector at the time of inspection. Contact the Construction Service Center at (813) 274-3100 for permit information.

306 East Jackson Street, 5E • Tampa, Florida 33602
(813) 274-8811 • tampagov.net/Water
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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 outdoor fixtures from 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 your for it as a separate line item on your utility bill at the reclaimed water rate. 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 sign up to receive reclaimed water service and do not have an in-ground irrigation system, you may purchase and install a cam lock hose connection that complies with the Florida Building Code/Plumbing and all City of Tampa and FDEP rules. A City of Tampa plumbing 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.

If You Plan to Install a New Irrigation System

You will be required to obtain two City of Tampa plumbing permits – one to install the irrigation system and one to connect the irrigation system to the reclaimed water meter. Please contact the Construction Services Center at (813) 274-7400 for permit information.

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Water Department

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If an Existing Irrigation System is Connected to a Well

As with all reclaimed water connections, a City of Tampa plumbing 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. Please contact the Construction Services Center at (813) 274-7400 for permit information.

Watering Schedules

Reclaimed water does not have the same watering restrictions as potable (drinking) water. Except under extreme conditions when special restrictions are in place, the use of reclaimed water is unrestricted. To maximize the efficiency of the reclaimed water delivery system, it is important that not all users irrigate on the same day. The following suggested watering schedule will help ensure the daily supply of reclaimed water corresponds with daily demands.

Suggested Watering Schedule

- Addresses ending in odd numbers: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays
- Addresses ending in even numbers: Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays

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