



# Pinellas County Utilities Reclaimed Water Consumer Confidence Report

2006

## How is Reclaimed Water Processed?

The wastewater treatment and disinfection process requires four steps:

**Step 1** eliminates large solid materials.

**Step 2** uses microorganisms to break down smaller solids.

**Step 3** eliminates undesirable compounds and fine suspended particles.

**Step 4** uses chlorine to eliminate disease-causing organisms.



## Our Water Reclamation Facilities

Pinellas County Utilities owns and operates two advanced wastewater treatment facilities.

**The William E. Dunn (WED) Water Reclamation Facility** provides reclaimed water service to residents and businesses in the unincorporated areas north of Curlew Road.



**The South Cross Bayou (SCB) Water Reclamation Facility** provides reclaimed water service to residents and businesses in central and southern unincorporated areas, and to the Gulf beach communities from Sand Key to Tierra Verde.



If you would like to tour the WED Water Reclamation Facility, please call **727-453-6744**. To schedule a tour of the SCB Water Reclamation Facility, please call **727-582-7021**. You may also visit Pinellas County Utilities online at [www.pinellascounty.org/utilities](http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities) or the Pinellas County Extension at <http://coop.co.pinellas.fl.us>.

## What is Reclaimed Water?

Pinellas County's reclaimed water is highly treated wastewater produced through an advanced wastewater treatment process. This process eliminates any harmful byproducts while retaining beneficial elements, such as nitrogen, for irrigating landscapes.

## What are the Benefits of Using Reclaimed Water?

- » Creates an alternate water source for irrigation by reducing demand on potable water sources utilized for drinking water.
- » Reduces the cost of landscape irrigation when it replaces potable water.
- » Reduces fertilizer costs due to the nitrogen and phosphorus in reclaimed water.
- » Beautifies our community by enhancing the appearance of landscaping.

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**In Florida,**  
**management of water is**  
**especially important. This**  
**annual Consumer Confidence**  
**Report, required by the**  
**Florida Department of**  
**Environmental Protection,**  
**tells the origin, nature,**  
**and characteristics of your**  
**reclaimed water supplied by**  
**Pinellas County Utilities.**

## Reclaimed Water Quality Analysis 2006

Pinellas County produces reclaimed water that meets all the state requirements for utilization of reclaimed water for irrigation of public access areas (parks, playgrounds, school sites, golf courses, etc.), and irrigation of residential lawns and landscapes.

Inorganic Contaminants	WED	SCB
» Chloride (mg/L)	190	350
» Nitrate (mg/L) (as Nitrogen)	0.59	1.59
» pH (standard unit)	7.54	7.28
» Phosphorus (mg/L)	0.51	1.19

WED, William E. Dunn Water Reclamation Facility  
SCB, South Cross Bayou Water Reclamation Facility

## Glossary of Terms

### Chloride

Naturally occurring salt content present in all water types.

### Nitrate (as Nitrogen)

A nutrient that stimulates plant growth and is associated with lush, dark green leaves.

### Milligrams per liter (mg/L)

One part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.

### pH

The measure of acidity or alkalinity with 7 as the neutral amount.

### Phosphorus

Promotes healthy root development and aids in plant establishment.

## Is Reclaimed Water Safe?

**Yes.** To ensure safety, the highest standards established by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection are followed. System controls utilized by Pinellas County Utilities are among the most stringent in the nation. Locally, Pinellas County Utilities, St. Petersburg, Largo, St. Pete Beach, South Pasadena, Pinellas Park, Clearwater, Dunedin, and Tarpon Springs safely operate reclaimed water systems. There is no documentation of any public health problems associated with reuse of properly treated and disinfected reclaimed water. As a precaution, it is recommended that immuno-compromised persons irrigate only when they will not be outside.

The level of treatment received by reclaimed water makes it **acceptable** for the following uses:

- Irrigating lawns and most landscaping.
- Washing of cars, boats, or heavy equipment.
- It is recommended that after the use of reclaimed water, vehicles are rinsed with potable water and towel dried to prevent spotting.
- Washing of roofs and buildings.
- Supplying water to decorative fountains.

The degree of treatment required for the use of reclaimed water makes it **unsuitable** for the following purposes:

- Consumption by humans.
- Bathing, cooking or toilet flushing in residential dwellings.
- Any interconnection with another water source.
- Recreational use involving body contact (*i.e. swimming pools or outdoor showers*).
- Irrigation of vegetables or other edible crops which are not peeled, cooked, or thermally processed before being consumed.
- Run-off into or filling of swimming pools.

Most plants native to this area will grow well when irrigated with reclaimed water. Some plants are sensitive to the amount of chlorides in reclaimed water. These include azaleas, Chinese privet, gardenias, geraniums, orchids, and roses. If leaf burning is observed, consider drip irrigation so water is applied at the soil level rather than spraying the leaves.



## Irrigate Responsibly by Using the Reclaimed Water Voluntary Watering Schedule

If your house number ends in an:	Then you may water on:
<b>EVEN</b> number (0, 2, 4, 6, 8)	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday
<b>ODD</b> number (1, 3, 5, 7, 9)	Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday

- **Sunday** is a watering day for all users.
- **Morning hours** include 12:01 am to 10:00 am.
- **Evening hours** include 4:00 pm to 11:59 pm.
- **Watering is prohibited** between the hours of 10:00 am and 4:00 pm.

Please check our Web site for updated information.  
[www.pinellascounty.org/utilities](http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities)

## Your Lawn May Have a Drinking Problem!

Sometimes rain and sprinklers happen at the same time. Before you know it, your lawn has a drinking problem! It's true. A lawn can get too much water and develop a shallow, thirsty root system, dollarweed, chinch bug damage, and excessive thatch, particularly in St. Augustinegrass.

Over-watering not only can damage your lawn, but it can hurt your investment. Protect your investment by:

- Installing an automatic rain shut-off device.
- Inspecting your irrigation system for leaks twice a year.
- Cleaning your irrigation system strainers monthly.
- Turning off your sprinklers when your landscape has received ¾" to 1" of water a week from irrigation and/or rainfall.

By following these simple steps, you can have a Healthy Lawn. Share these tips with family and friends to help them solve their lawn's drinking problem.



For more information, call **727-464-4000** and tell the representative, "I Want a Healthy Lawn".