



## Recycled Water FAQs for Construction & Other Workers

### Frequently Asked Questions:

**Q.** Is recycled water safe?

**A. YES!** Recycled water must meet stringent, protective, and conservative standards set by the California Department of Public Health or a recycled water agency will not be granted regulatory approval to supply recycled water. If a batch of recycled water temporarily does not meet standards, it cannot be put into the recycled water distribution system to be used by customers.

**Q.** How do I know it's safe?

**A.** Recycled water is tested at least once a day for total coliform bacteria. Also, testing equipment and a recorder automatically and continuously monitor recycled water at the recycled water treatment plant. An alarm system alerts a plant operator if the recycled water does not meet treatment standards and the recycled water is sent through the treatment process again until standards are met.

**Q.** What's the safety record for recycled water?

**A.** Flawless! Recycled water has been used in agriculture since the 1880s and in California municipalities beginning in 1912. There has **NEVER** been a verifiable disease incidence or other adverse public health effect in the United States related to the use of recycled water that meets established standards. In fact, recycled water presents less of a potential public health risk than the water in swimming pools, rivers, the Delta, or the ocean.

**Q.** What happens if recycled water splashes on me?

**A.** You'll get wet. There have been no reported instances of skin rashes resulting from contact with recycled water.

**Q.** What if I get recycled water in my eyes?

**A.** Recycled water is highly disinfected, so the chlorine *may* cause a mild burning sensation, just as if you opened your eyes while under water in a swimming pool. If you get recycled water in your eyes and feel any discomfort, rinse your eyes with potable water or use eyes drops.



**Q.** What if recycled water comes into contact with a cut or abrasion on my skin?

**A.** As a precaution, clean the affected area with soap and potable water or an antiseptic towelette, apply an antibiotic ointment, and cover with a bandage.

**Q.** Will I need to use a special set of tools or equipment when I'm using recycled water?

**A.** No.

**Q.** Whom should I contact with any additional questions or concerns?

**A.** Please contact Lori Steere, Community Affairs Representative for EBMUD Recycled Water, at (510) 287-1631 or via email at [lsteere@ebmud.com](mailto:lsteere@ebmud.com).