

Purple pipes – standing out for good reason

Every year, billions of litres of fresh drinking water is used for things like washing our clothes or flushing the toilet.

But there’s a better way. Expanding our recycled water network is one of the many ways we’re planning ahead so our customers can always rely on us.

Recycled water is suitable for a variety of purposes around the home including toilet flushing, clothes washing machines, washing cars and for irrigation.

This guidance document outlines our requirements for recycled water installation. This information also supports the requirements of AS/NZS3500.1:2018.



What’s the first step?

First, ensure that you’ve submitted an application for a recycled water connection via PropertyConnect® at southeastwater.com.au. Once we assess the application, you’ll receive a ‘Consent to Connect’ form.

Once you have a Consent to Connect, you can plan to start the installation. When planning, you **MUST** arrange inspections of the recycled water installation with us.

Installation stages

Booking code	Inspection type	Who’s responsible for the inspection?
R1	First inspection: laying pipes from meters to the house	Plumber must book inspection with South East Water
R2	Second inspection: rough in of house i.e. pipe work supplying recycled water to approve outlets	Plumber must book inspection with South East Water
R3	Final inspection: fit-off and commissioning (before occupancy)	Plumber must book inspection with South East Water

Book a recycled water inspection

You can book recycled water inspections by calling us on **9552 3219**, or email recycledwater@sew.com.au. Inspections must be booked a **minimum of two business days** prior to the required inspection date.

Important installation criteria

Recycled water pipework from water meters to the house (below ground)

- Pipe must be solid purple in colour, with identification tape laid above the pipe and fixed to the pipe at not more than 3-metre intervals. Identification tape must state: **“RECYCLED WATER – DO NOT DRINK”**, and comply with AS/NZS2648.1
Purple striped polyethylene pipe does not comply (see Figure 1)
- Have a minimum of 300 millimetres cover from proposed finished surface level (where not subject to vehicle loading)
- Maintain a minimum 300 millimetres separation from any drinking water service (see Figure 1)
- Installed to the left hand side of the drinking water (when facing the property) (see Figure 2)

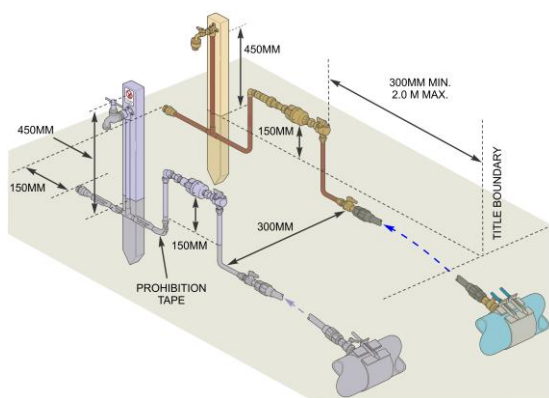


Figure 1



Figure 2

Rough in pipework (above ground)

- Maintain a minimum 100 millimetres separation from any drinking water service (see Figure 3)
- Be solid purple in colour (see Figure 4)
- A recycled water tap must be installed to service the rear of the property.
 - This tap must have a **5/8”** inlet thread, be coloured purple with removable handle
- Must be installed to washing machines, and all flushing toilets on the property
- If a rainwater tank is installed with intention to supply water for toilet flushing, this supply must be ‘backed up’ with recycled water:
 - All recycled water pipework from the change-over device to the fixture/s must be colored purple
 - Do not top up rainwater tanks with recycled water
- Recycled water **must not** be used for bidets, bidet toilet seats, or handheld douche sprays.



Figure 3



Figure 4

Commissioning recycled water

- Keep recycled water meter locked “off” until a successful commissioning inspection has taken place (*see Figure 5*). Where the locking device has been removed from the recycled water meter, a fee to recover the costs of replacing the locking device will be charged to the applicant.
- Remove temporary loop at front garden taps (between drinking and recycled water) before scheduled inspection time
- Hot water service must be installed or temporarily looped (between hot, tempered cold water) at its location
- All tapware must be installed (internal and external), and all isolation valves/cistern stops must be in the open position
- Recycled water washing machine taps must have a **5/8”** inlet thread and have a purple coloured tap handle
- All recycled water outlets (including washing machine stops) must have an adjacent warning or prohibition sign that states “**RECYCLED WATER – DO NOT DRINK**” or similar, compliant with AS1319. Washing machine stops may utilise an etched identification cover plate installed which states similar, compliant with AS1319 (*see Figure 6*)
- All external drinking water taps should have a vacuum breaker installed
- Commissioning must take place before occupancy of the property.



Figure 5



Figure 6

What **NOT** to do

- ✗ Not enough separation between pipework below ground (see **Figure 7**)
- ✗ Incorrect pipework used – striped purple pipe is not permitted (see **Figure 8**)



Figure 7



Figure 8

Key points to remember

Main to meter

- Don't start work without a Consent to Connect
- Use only solid purple pipe for Recycled Water
- Maintain correct separation from drinking water pipework (min. 300mm in ground)
- Use underground marker tape on buried pipework
- Book an R1 Recycled Water inspection with us.

Rough in

- Use only solid purple pipe for Recycled Water
- Maintain correct separation from drinking water pipework (min. 100mm above ground)
- Use 5/8" lugged elbows for external hose taps
- Recycled Water must supply all toilets and washing machine
- Recycled Water must not supply bidets, bidet toilet seats or toilet hand sprays
- Book an R2 Recycled Water inspection with us.

Fit off and commissioning

- Install Recycled Water warning signs
- Install vacuum breakers on all external drinking water hose taps
- Use engraved warning cover plates on washing machine stops
- Keep the Recycled Water meter locked off until a successful R3 commissioning inspection (**remember** – only South East Water can remove locking device)
- Book a R3 Recycled Water inspection with us
- Remove the inter-connecting loop between the drinking water and Recycled Water services before the R3 inspection time.

Need to get in touch?

For more information on recycled water go to southeastwater.com.au/propertyconnect or call us on **9552 3770**, **Monday to Friday** between **8 am** and **5 pm**.