

# Water Recycling

In the future sustainable water recycling will provide economic, environmental social benefits or those willing to invest in the valuable resource.

## WHAT IS WATER RECYCLING?

Recycled water is wastewater that has been treated to a level appropriate for its intended use.

Such water is piped to a wastewater treatment plant, where it goes through a complex treatment process. This produces recycled water, which can be used in a number of beneficial re-use programs.

Stringent guidelines, regulations, standards and codes of practice are in place for different uses of recycled water to safeguard public health and the environment.

## WHY RECYCLE WATER?

Water recycling will help us to manage and protect one of our most precious resources - water.

Currently treated wastewater is being discharged into rivers and creeks every day. Not only is this wasting a valuable reusable resource, it is affecting the health of our waterways and marine environment.

## WHY USE RECYCLE WATER?

It will conserve high-quality water supplies for drinking and personal use by substituting recycled water for applications that don't need that quality.

Recycled water can be rich in nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen which are an advantage for horticultural, agricultural and other uses.

Councils can reduce costs by using recycled water, especially for large water users, which do not require water of drinking standard.

## IS THERE ANY HEALTH RISKS?

As recycled water undergoes a high standard of treatment, there is virtually no health risk, providing the water is used for its intended purpose.

Recycled water could be used in the following applications:

- Domestic and commercial property use

Bundaberg Regional Council  
PO Box 3130  
BUNDABERG QLD 4670  
1300 883 699  
[www.bundabergrc.qld.gov.au](http://www.bundabergrc.qld.gov.au)

**Council hours**  
8.15am to 4.45pm  
Monday to Friday

### Fact Sheets available:

1. Water Cycle
2. Water Treatment
3. What I need to know about Wastewater
4. Wastewater Treatment
5. Water Pollution
6. Water Recycling
7. Water Efficiency
8. How to read your Water Meter
9. Water Meter Home Accuracy Check
10. Drip Water your Garden and save
11. Important things to know about drip watering
12. Water Audit for the Household
13. Rainwater Tanks
14. Pool Maintenance

### Booklets available:

1. You Can Take Control
2. Create Your Own Water Wise Garden

Additional fact sheets from WaterWise Queensland can also be obtained through your Local Council.

ANOTHER  
BUNDABERG REGIONAL  
COUNCIL  
PUBLIC AWARENESS INITIATIVE

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COUNCIL  
PUBLIC AWARENESS INITIATIVE

- Public open space irrigation
- Retail nurseries
- Irrigation of pasture, stock watering and stockyard wash down outdoor uses
- Irrigation of non-human food chain crops including trees, cotton, turf and wholesale nurseries
- Fire fighting and fire protection

Recycled water must NEVER be used in the home for:

- Drinking, cooking or kitchen purposes
- Personal washing (showers, baths and hand basins)
- Evaporative coolers
- Washing cloths
- Cleaning inside the house
- Filling swimming pools
- Recreation (playing under the sprinklers)



**DOES OUR LOCAL COUNCIL HAVE A RECYCLING PROGRAM?**

Bundaberg Regional Council has several treatment plants, in Bundaberg there is five wastewater treatment plants and already achieves 100% reuse from the Thabeban Wastewater Treatment Plant. Council is also pursuing the water recycling opportunities from the Millbank and East Wastewater Treatment Plant. Two wastewater treatment plants located in Coral Cove and Bargara, with 100% reuse from the Coral Cove Wastewater Treatment Plant. Gin Gin and Childers each have one wastewater treatment plant in their respective areas.

The surrounding land of the region is fertile and the main source of irrigation water is the Burnett River but the opportunity exists to supplement this water with recycled water.

Recycled water has many benefits to Council, the environment and the broader community through reduction in river discharges, increased economic activity and low treatment plant upgrade costs.