



## **RECLAIMED WATER USER'S GUIDE**

### **Commercial and Residential**

Martin County Board of  
County Commissioners



*Martin County's  
Utilities and Solid Waste Department  
makes a daily commitment to provide  
the highest quality of reclaimed water*

### **Martin County Utilities and Solid Waste Department**

P.O. Box 9000  
Stuart, FL 34995-9000  
(772) 221-1442  
[www.martin.fl.us](http://www.martin.fl.us)

## **WHAT IS RECLAIMED WATER?**

Water, like used motor oil, newspaper, plastics and aluminum cans, can be recycled. Reclaimed water is treated wastewater from local utility systems. *Martin County Utilities* filters and treats Reuse Water with a high level of chlorine disinfection. This allows reclaimed water to be readily available for non-potable uses such as commercial and private landscape irrigation purposes.

Current Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) regulatory mechanisms are effective in encouraging and promoting water reuse. There has been a significant increase of reuse water usage the last ten years, and this reuse water has been an important component of water resources and wastewater management in the State of Florida.

## **WHY REUSE WATER?**

Reclaimed water conserves drinking water normally used for irrigation in an environmentally economic manner.

The State of Florida has adopted policies that recognize water reuse as an integral part of the comprehensive water management program.

Water reclamation offers a valuable alternative water resource not requiring potable

drinking water applications. The use of reclaimed water in a non-potable application helps to insure a long-term reliable water source even during times of drought. Martin County, like other South Florida communities, are faced with the problem of a diminishing fresh water supply. Water restrictions are affecting the quality of life of every South Florida resident. Water reclamation is an important component of an effective water conservation program.

To protect the quality of valuable water resources in Martin County, leaders of the county have made a conscious and continuous effort to protect the quality of valuable water here in the county. With this in mind, Martin County wastewater treatment plants have been designed and constructed with advanced and sophisticated engineering to limit the amount of effluent to surface water and deep well injection points.

## **IS REUSE WATER SAFE?**

Reuse water undergoes a strict 24 hour a day monitoring process 365 days a year. Stringent water standards are set forth by the State of Florida.

No health related problems have been associated with recycled water throughout the county. However, Reuse water **is not** intended for human or animal use, it poses no threat to accidental contact.

## MARTIN COUNTY VISION

Martin County government is value and service driven. Martin County will be known locally, regionally, state-wide, and nationally as an innovative and progressive leader providing cost effective county services.

Others will benchmark against Martin County service functions as an example of the best in local government. The citizens and the Board of Commissioners will be proud of the staff and have a firm belief in the reliability, truth, and strength of the organization.

## QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions regarding the use of reclaimed water, please contact Martin County's Reuse Coordinator at (772) 223- 7978.



Martin County Utilities  
Utilities / Solid Waste Department  
Post Office Box 9000  
Stuart, Florida 34995-9000

## HOW REUSE WATER BENEFITS YOU



Reclaimed water offers a variety of benefits to county residents and the environment.

Here are some examples:

- Helps in ground water recharge
- Irrigation of lawns and golf courses
- Water recycling helps preserve the environment
- Reserves potable water otherwise used for lawn irrigation
- Reuse water used for irrigation will not stain sidewalks or driveways
- The cost of reuse water is a fraction of the cost of potable tap water
- Recycled water contains nitrogen and phosphorus, which will reduce the amount of fertilizer needed for healthy grass growth

## WANT MORE INFORMATION ON RECLAIMED WATER?

Please access Florida Department of Environmental Protection's website at:  
<http://dep.state.fl.us/water/reuse/index.htm>

## HOW TO USE MARTIN COUNTY'S RECLAIMED WATER

- Use for irrigation of lawns or golf grasses
- Use for irrigation of flower gardens
- Use for irrigation of trees and shrubs
- Use for irrigation of only edible crops which will be peeled, skinned, or cooked prior to eating

## HOW NOT TO USE MARTIN COUNTY'S RECLAIMED WATER

- DO NOT drink reclaimed water
- DO NOT connect your reclaimed irrigation to any other water source
- DO NOT allow your irrigation system to waste water by spraying driveway or street
- DO NOT fill swimming pools or use reclaimed water recreationally
- DO NOT use reclaimed water through hoses, faucets, hose bibs or couplers