

Reuse of Recycled Water

ACT Health is aware that there is a community desire to utilise recycled water due to environmental benefits and potential saving of the drinking water supply.

ACT Health supports reuse of recycled water where the public health risks associated with human exposure to treated effluent are minimised.

Public Health Risks

Recycled water has the potential to contain organisms that may compromise public health. Cryptosporidium and Giardia cysts for example, may not be completely removed by chlorination

Infection by either of these organisms may produce conditions such as diarrhea, abdominal cramps, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, and low-grade fever. Symptoms typically present between 2 to 25 days following infection.

Sources of recycled water

The advice below is applicable to recycled water that is sourced from the Lower Molonglo Treatment Plant.

Uses of Recycled Water

Recycled water may be used for variety of purposes that do not include human contact within 24 hours of application.

Locations not considered appropriate for recycled water use include:

- Residential properties.
- Primary production of foods that may be consumed in the raw uncooked state.
- Swimming pools and spa water.
- Water features that produce aerosols near populated areas.
- Child care and aged care facilities.

Storage of recycled water

Storage of recycled water is generally not recommended. Where it is necessary to store recycled water for periods of greater than 24 hours, water should be chlorinated to ensure a minimum of 1mg/litre total chlorine is achieved.

Where storage is proposed, appropriate signage is to be provided.

Additional information

The “Information for Users of Treated Effluent” document produced by ACT Health is equally applicable to reuse of recycled water.

Transportation of recycled water

Transportation of recycled water should be in appropriate water carting vehicles. Transportation in potable water containers is not recommended.

Sufficient chlorine should be added to the recycled water at time of discharge from the collection facility to permit at least 0.5mg/litre for a minimum of 30 minutes.

Discharge of recycled water

At the discharge the following recommendations should be considered:

- Discharged recycled water should not produce aerosols.
- Water should not be permitted to pool where discharged to the ground surface.
- Where used in a water feature, total chlorine level of 1 mg/litre is recommended.
- Appropriate signage should be placed where human contact may occur.

Public Health Act 1997

The use of recycled water has the potential to produce risks to public health. The *Public Health Act 1997* requires that users of recycled water do not create an insanitary condition.

Further advice

For further information or advice regarding use of recycled water, contact :

The Health Protection Service
Phone: 6205 1700
Fax: 6205 1705
Website: www.health.act.gov.au/hps

ACTEW
6248 3587
6248 3567
www.actew.com.au