

Wastewater Reuse is the practice of treating and reusing wastewater treatment plant effluent for beneficial use before releasing it back into the water cycle.

WASTEWATER

Industrial



Wastewater from manufacturing or industrial processing activities. Some industrial wastewater is pre-treated.

Residential & Commercial



Wastewater from bathing, laundry, toilets, kitchens and other indoor water uses. Graywater is the portion of wastewater produced from sinks, showers, bathtubs, clothes washers and laundry sinks. Graywater is mainly a byproduct of washing activities. The collection of graywater for potential reuse requires segregated plumbing systems inside buildings to separate graywater from other wastewater sources.



Influent

The untreated wastewater that flows into a treatment plant.



Effluent

The treated wastewater that is discharged from a wastewater treatment plant, typically to a river.



Additional Treatment

Treatment requirements will depend on water quality and reuse application.

Reclaimed water

Effluent that has been treated for beneficial use.

REUSE PRACTICES BEING USED IN THE U.S.



Industrial Use



Groundwater Augmentation



Irrigation



Direct and Indirect Potable Uses (in places such as TX or CA)



Non-Potable Uses (such as toilet flushing)

BENEFICIAL USE

The use of reclaimed water for purposes that contribute to meeting a community's water needs. Uses can include toilet flushing, irrigation, cooling, washing, industrial processing, and groundwater or surface water augmentation.

DISCHARGE

The release of treated wastewater that meets regulatory standards, and designated by a regulatory permit to be safely released into the environment.

EFFLUENT

The treated wastewater from a wastewater treatment plant. It is usually discharged to a permitted receiving water, such as a river. Effluent quality can vary, depending on the level of treatment.

GRAYWATER

The portion of wastewater produced from sinks, showers, bathtubs, clothes washers and laundry sinks. Graywater is mainly a byproduct of washing activities. The collection of graywater for potential reuse requires segregated plumbing systems inside buildings to separate graywater from other wastewater sources.

INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER

Wastewater generated by manufacturing or industrial processing activities. Some industrial wastewater is pre-treated on-site before being discharged into the sanitary sewer.

INFLUENT

The untreated wastewater that flows into a wastewater treatment plant.

NON-POTABLE WATER

Water that has not been treated to drinking water standards, but that may be considered safe for other uses. Non-potable uses include toilet flushing, irrigation, industrial uses, or other non-drinking water purposes. Implementing a non-potable water use system would require separate water distribution and plumbing systems.

POTABLE WATER

Water that has been treated sufficiently to meet or exceed federal and state drinking water standards and is considered safe for human consumption. Potable water uses include drinking, bathing/showering, food preparation, dish washing, and clothes washing.

RECLAIMED WATER

Effluent that has received additional treatment to make it suitable for specific reuse applications or beneficial use. **Recycled Water** is often used interchangeably with reclaimed water.

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL WASTEWATER

Wastewater from bathing, laundry, toilets, kitchens and other indoor water uses.

WASTEWATER

Used or spent water from residential, commercial, and industrial buildings. It typically contains both dissolved and suspended matter resulting from human or industrial use. Wastewater is sometimes referred to as sewage.

WASTEWATER REUSE

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