

Guidelines for Worker Protection on Sites Using Recycled Water

Recycled water is not potable (drinking) water and cannot be treated as such. Consequently, when the irrigation systems are changed from potable water to recycled water, certain precautions must be taken. This also applies to working on recycled water supplied fire suppression systems.

- A common sense approach should be used when working in areas utilizing recycled water. Practices do not differ significantly from those used when working on potable irrigation systems.
- Workers should wash hands with potable water before eating or smoking.
- Workers should not be subjected to continuous recycled water sprays.
- Potable water should be supplied for workers. Where bottled water is provided, the water should be in contamination-proof containers and protected from recycled water and dust.
- Precautions should be taken to avoid contamination of food taken into recycled water use areas. Food should not be taken into areas still wet with recycled water.
- Posting of conspicuous warning signs with proper wording of sufficient size to be clearly read. In those locations where English is not the primary language of workers, the signs should be in the appropriate language as well as English.
- An adequate first aid kit should be available on location. The first aid kits should contain anti-bacterial ointment to provide a barrier between cuts/sores and recycled water.