

**PACE PROPERTY FINANCE AUTHORITY  
PROCEDURES FOR CONNECTING TO RECLAIMED WATER**

**In order for any property to receive reclaimed water from the Pace Water System reclaimed Water Distribution System, the following steps must be completed by the property owner, resident if the premises if rented, management company or association having control over the irrigation of the subject property (Customer).**

**STEP 1. Review Public Information Requirements:**

Prior to acceptance by the PWS of an application for connection to the Reuse System; the Customer must review the information packet as provided by the PWS. This packet is to explain the system and answer the common questions you may have. By viewing this packet in no way obligates you to connect to Pace's system. However, the Customer must indicate receipt of this packet on their connection application.

**STEP 2. File an Reclaimed Water Application**

Submit of a fully completed application form and the appropriate connection fee to initiate a request for connection to the reclaimed water system. An application is included in the front pocket of this packet. Additional copies are available at:

Pace Water System  
4401 Woodbine Rd  
Pace, FL. 32571

After the application has been reviewed and approved, the Customer can then proceed to ready their private irrigation system for connection by fulfilling the requirements in Step 3, Step 4, and Step 5. Upon notice that the service installation is ready, the PWS will schedule the installation of the service tap/ box. **THE SERVICE WILL NOT BE ACTIVATED UNTIL THE STEPS 3 THROUGH 5 ARE COMPLETED.**

NOTE: The PWS's curbstops valve (PWS's supply line valve) is to be opened or closed by PWS personnel only. The installer must contact the PWS to turn the system on and off during, or after construction to flush or pressure check the system.

**STEP 3. Prepare the Private Irrigation System**

Prior to the request for activation of a reclaimed water service, the Customer shall install or have installed a New or Retrofit Irrigation System. This system must meet the requirements of the PWS Reclaimed Water System Policy inclusive of being designed so that spray does not go into the street, swimming pools, public sidewalks, etc. during normal use periods. Keep irrigation contained to your property.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR IRRIGATION INSTALLATION:**

Components and material for your system should be compatible with supply pressures between 45 and 65 psi. The recommended piping is schedule 40 (pvc) pipe. In-ground pop-up water droplet heads are recommended. The recommended water cycle is three (3) times a week, mornings or evenings. Therefore, a timer and zone system is an important part of your irrigation system. However, hand control valves for zoning is acceptable. Customers should determine actual system service pressures available at the time of service installation and add a pressure-reducing-valve as necessary.

Where new lines are installed, other than the main supply line to the sprinkler system, it is recommended that these lines be marked as RECLAIMED WATER by the use of the color purple/lavender manufactured tape or paint to prevent Cross Connections. It is mandatory that piping and outlets conveying nonpotable water be adequately and durably identified by a distinctive color Purple/Lavender for reclaimed and yellow for other nonpotable water supplies so that it is readily distinguished from piping carrying potable water.

#### **STEP 4. Install a Backflow Device**

The Customer must have a backflow prevention device installed on the potable water service for the protection of the Potable Water supply (drinking water) where Reclaimed Water is upon the same property. The backflow prevention device must be compliant with the Pace “Guideline Standards and Specifications for Water and Wastewater Utilities” (Pace Standards). Installation and annual testing shall also be compliant with the Pace Standards.

#### **STEP 5 Call for an Inspection and Connection Activation**

The Pace Water System shall be notified of any and all water connections or related requirements to the use of the reclaimed water system, including cross-connection protection and devices.

Call For an inspection when:

1. The in-ground irrigation system is ready for use.
2. The Backflow Prevention Device is installed and tested.
3. A flag as provided by the PWS at the time of application is placed at the point of the requested service connection.

When all requirements are met, the PWS will install as service connection to the PWS reclaimed water system and activate the service.

#### **MORE IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

NO water-cooled air conditioning will be connected to the system.

NO above-grade hose bibs are permitted on the reclaimed (irrigation) system.

NO potable water systems or hydraulics may be tied into the system.

NO connections to wells or quick disconnects will be allowed. NOTE: Wells may be retained but must be completely separate from the reclaimed system.

NO aesthetic connections (such as water falls or fountains) are permitted.

NO overhead irrigation systems allowed without the approval of the PWS.

NOTE: Any customer whose reclaimed water system is in violation of any PWS policies shall be subject to immediate discontinuance of reclaimed water service. Such discontinuance of service shall not relieve any person of liability for civil action or criminal or municipal ordinance violation prosecution.

#### **SUMMARY**

**STEP 1: Review Reclaimed Water Information Packet.**

**STEP 2: Submit application and fee.**

**STEP 3: Meet requirements for connection to reclaimed water system.**

**STEP 4: Meet backflow device requirements.**

**STEP 5: Call for inspection. Final activation will be made upon satisfactory inspection.**

## **PACE PROPERTY FINANCE AUTHORITY RECLAIMED WATER FACT SHEET**

**The following information is provided to answer the most frequently asked questions regarding the Pace Water System Reclaimed Water Reuse System. Additional questions should be addressed to the PWS at (850) 994-5129.**

### **Q What is Reclaimed Water?**

A. Reclaimed water, sometimes referred to as reuse water, is wastewater that has been treated and transformed into a product that is clean, clear, and odorless. This water has been subjected to strict water quality standards established by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Pace's reclaimed water is treated to advanced secondary wastewater treatment standards at the Water Reclamation Facility. The water, which has undergone a high level of disinfection, is continuously monitored and analyzed by our skilled technicians to insure consistent high quality and compliance with regulations. Reclaimed water is not suitable for drinking; however, it is great for irrigation. It can be used on residential and commercial lawns, roadway medians, parks, and other landscaped areas. Reclaimed water is currently available to limited areas of Pace. The service is limited by the extent of our distribution system. Reclaimed water is distributed through a completely separate system of underground piping from the pipes carrying potable water. Plans are underway to expand this service within the next few years. Besides reducing the demand on potable water supplies, a reclaimed water system offers a form of environmental protection through the wise disposal of wastewater. Effluent that would have otherwise been discharged into tributaries of Escambia Bay, is "re-used". This reduction of effluent discharge helps Pace to meet current legislation regulating surface discharge, while benefiting all of us by conserving drinking water supplies.

### **Q. Why Should You Use Reclaimed Water?**

A. There are many reasons including the following:

Reclaimed water use is not restricted during drought periods.

Reclaimed water has a low salt content that will not harm most plants.

Reclaimed water has a low iron content that will not stain walkways and buildings. Also, unlike some wells, it does not have an odor.

Reclaimed water eliminates the expense of wells (i.e. no need for drilling or pump costs).

Reclaimed water usage reduces the demand on potable and groundwater sources.

Reclaimed water recharges the shallow surficial aquifer with fresh water.

Reclaimed water usage reduces the quantity of effluent reaching the Escambia Bay.

### **Q What is the connection fee?**

A. The connection fee for reclaimed water is currently set based upon the required meter size. A 5/8" meter has a \$250 fee, a 1" meter has a \$400 fee and a 1-1/2" meter has a \$750 fee. Customers requiring larger meters must install their own service and meter and are charged an inspection fee of \$100.

**Q How is the monthly usage fee billed?**

A. The usage fee is a flat rate of \$10 for the first 20,000 gallons of usage and an escalating per-gallon rate for usage above that amount. It is billed as a part of your monthly water bill.

**Q Who is responsible for connecting my system to the reclaimed water service box?**

A. The Pace Water System is responsible for making the tap to the reuse main for all customers using meters 1-1/2" or smaller. Customers with larger meters must make their own tap under PWS supervision. The customer is responsible for making the connection to the PWS service line after payment of the connection fee. Complete instructions are included in the connection application.

**Q What type of irrigation system can I use with reclaimed water?**

A. You may connect any in-ground sprinkler system, or a hose bibb located in a PWS-approved locking hose bibb box. Hose bibb connections that are not in an in-ground hose bibb box are not permitted. The hose bibb assembly box must be located where it can be easily seen from the street or the reuse meter.

**Q Who is responsible for the cost of connecting my system into the reclaimed water service box?**

A. The homeowner is responsible for the cost of connecting the in-ground sprinkler system or locking hose bibb to the system, as well as any associated connection fees.

**Q At what pressure is reclaimed water delivered?**

A. It is usually delivered at 45 to 60 PSI, but pressure cannot be guaranteed at any given time. It is recommended that you use a pressure-reducing valve on your irrigation system.

**Q Can I wash my vehicle or boat with reclaimed water?**

A. No. Reclaimed water may only be used for irrigation purposes.

**Q Is reclaimed water safe to use on my plants and garden?**

A. Reclaimed water is safe to use on your lawn, trees (including fruit trees) and ornamental plants. No direct irrigation of vegetables is permitted unless bubbler or drip irrigation is used.

**Q How must I adjust my sprinkler heads?**

A. The sprinkler heads must be adjusted to eliminate overspray into non-turf areas or onto adjacent property. Reclaimed water is not allowed to spray onto or runoff into the road, sidewalks, driveways, patios, decks, swimming pools, animal water dishes, ponds, etc.

**Q Can I use reclaimed water for uses other than irrigation?**

A. No. The use of reclaimed water to fill swimming pools, wash cars, drink, wash pets, use in residential air conditioners, etc. is explicitly prohibited. Reclaimed water may not be piped into any building or cross connected with any other water source.

**Q Does reclaimed water smell?**

A. No. The PWS uses advanced secondary treatment methods that eliminate any odor.

**Q Will reclaimed water stain the concrete driveway or the house?**

A. No. The iron content of potable water sometimes causes this staining, but reclaimed water will not.

**Q Where can the locking hose bibb be attached?**

A. The bibb can be located anywhere in the yard of your property where it is clearly visible from the street or reuse meter.

**Q Why must I pay for reclaimed water when I already pay for sewer?**

A. The monthly sewer bill is for the treatment of sewage. Providing reclaimed water for irrigation involves additional costs above and beyond those for the treatment of sewage.

**Q. How much money will I save on my water and sewer bill?**

A. Savings depends on your current total usage of water and how much of that will be displaced by using reclaimed water for irrigation.

**Q. Is there any salt in reclaimed water?**

A. The salt content in reclaimed water varies throughout the year but is generally low. Since some plants are intolerant to salt, they should not be directly irrigated with reclaimed water. Instead use a drip irrigation system, to get the water to the roots, instead of on the leaves for plants that are not salt tolerant.

**Q. Are modifications to my house or plumbing needed for reclaimed water?**

A. An approved backflow prevention device is required on the potable water line serving any property receiving reclaimed water. Reclaimed water piping must be completely isolated, disconnected, and separate from all potable water lines. A list of list of approved devices is included in the connection application package.

**Q. Can I use it all the year round?**

A. This depends on the climate. The amount of irrigation is governed by rainfall and evaporation, which together determine the water supply and demand of the lawn. In the Pace area, evaporation generally exceeds rainfall during most of the year. Particularly during summer months, soil moisture levels fall and plant growth declines. In the cooler months and during periods of prolonged rainfall, the water requirements of growing plants may be met by rainfall. You should adjust your watering periods to accommodate you lawn's requirements. Reclaimed water produced in excess of that needed for irrigation will be disposed of by other means available to the PWS.

**Pace Water System  
Reclaimed Water Use Rates and Charges.**

A schedule of rates and charges for the use of the Pace Water System (PWS) reclaimed water system is established as provided as follows.

(1) Connection Fee. A fee for the provision of a service connection shall be based upon meter sizes for all services up to a 1-1/2" meter. This fee shall be paid at the time of application to connect to the PWS reclaimed system. Fees shall be as follows:

5/8" meter - \$250  
1" meter - \$400  
1-1/2" meter - \$750

(2) Inspection Fee. An inspection fee of \$100 shall be assessed for the first inspection of any service connection above a 1-1/2" meter size as shall be constructed by a developer or property owner. Should the connection fail the first inspection, an additional fee of \$50 shall accompany each subsequent inspection required. All fees shall be paid prior to the activation of the service.

(3) Reclaimed water customers shall be billed based on the monthly usage of reclaimed water as determined by the monthly meter readings by the PWS. The PWS may substitute quarterly readings and flow averaging at its discretion.

(4) The reclaimed water rate schedule as included in Table 1 shall be charged each user.

Minimum Monthly User Fee - \$10.00. This fee shall include an allowance of usage of up to 20,000 gallons per month of reclaimed water without any additional charge.

For all flows above 20,000 g/month, the user shall be billed based upon the following schedule:

Flow per Month(g/month)	Cost per 1,000 gallons
Above 20,000	\$0.50

**Table 1: Reclaimed Water Rate Schedule**