

Who regulates the use of recycled water?

The Hawaii Department of Health is in charge of regulating recycled water use in the state. Department of Health regulations specify things like irrigation, handling and hook up procedures to make sure recycled water is used safely.

Where else is recycled water used?

Recycled water has been used for more than 40 years on the mainland. Texas, California, Arizona and other dry states depend on recycled water as an important part of their water supplies.

Can I get recycled water at my home?

No. Recycled water is only available to large water users, not individual homeowners. This is because recycled water needs its own set of pipes, separate from the regular drinking water system. It is currently only cost effective to build these separate pipes to locations where a significant amount of water is used, such as golf courses and factories.

However, homeowners can help save water through conservation. For water conservation ideas, including available rebates, call the Board of Water Supply at

808.748.5960.

Is reverse osmosis the same thing that people use in their homes?

Yes, but on a much larger scale — picture a whole room filled with reverse osmosis filters! Most people are familiar with reverse osmosis because of the many home systems that are available to remove minerals from tap water to improve the taste. Reverse osmosis works by forcing water through ultra fine membranes that only allow water molecules to pass through. At the Honouliuli Water Recycling Facility, customers who need ultra pure water for industrial processes use RO water. The facility also produces R-1 water, which is suitable for irrigation.



**HONOLULU BOARD
OF WATER SUPPLY**



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Water Recycling Program



Honolulu Board of Water Supply

Why is using recycled water important?

Current groundwater supplies on Oahu are limited. By offering recycled water to its large water users, the Board of Water Supply can ensure Oahu's residents have the water they need today, tomorrow and for generations to come.

Is recycled water the only alternative source the Board of Water Supply is developing?

No. The Board of Water Supply is exploring all available alternatives to expand and protect Oahu's water resources. Recycled water is just one of these alternatives. By developing a diverse pool of water resources, the Board of Water Supply is helping keep water rates affordable for its

customers. The Board of Water Supply also has a water resource management program in place,

including water conservation, to preserve Hawaii's precious natural resources.

What is recycled water?

Recycled water is wastewater that has been treated to a level suitable for irrigation and industrial uses. By recycling and reusing water for industrial purposes, the Board of Water Supply is helping protect and save precious fresh water supplies for people.

Is recycled water safe?

Yes. Although recycled water isn't intended for drinking, recycled water is safe for industrial uses, irrigation and other non-drinking uses. Recycled water is closely monitored by the Hawaii Department of Health to meet strict water quality standards. Recycled water has been extensively used throughout the United States — including for food crops, over groundwater aquifers and in recreational lakes — for the past 40 years with no negative health impacts.



Is water recycling new to Hawaii?

No. Water recycling has been practiced for many years in Hawaii. On Oahu, recycled water is used at the Polynesian Cultural Center, Turtle Bay Golf Club, Brigham Young University campus and the Kaneohe Marine Corps Base Hawaii. It is also used on other islands, including on Maui at golf courses, public parks, schools, libraries, resort areas and for growing seed corn.

How much does recycled water cost?

Users of recycled water, not all Board of Water Supply customers, pay for the Water Recycling Program. However, since recycled water costs much less than developing other new water sources, it helps keep water rates affordable for everyone. Landscapers and agricultural customers will realize a savings in their operational costs when using recycled water because it contains nutrients that reduce the need for expensive soil amendments, such as fertilizer.

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