

# Understanding recycled water for the garden



## Why does council audit properties with recycled water?

As a water utility, Council is committed to providing a safe and reliable water network. Our recycled water audit program is key to ensuring properties with dual reticulation are plumbed correctly and are receiving recycled water through the correct outlets.

Regular inspections of all recycled water properties is also a requirement of Council's approval from the NSW Government to supply recycled water to our community.

Regular auditing gives Council and its residents confidence in the recycled water supply.

## Audit frequency

Council audits a recycled water property when it is first built and then every five years.

Council's plumbing inspectors audit recycled water properties after construction is complete. This is a requirement and must be completed before a property receives its final occupation certificate.

Council will contact the home owner when an audit is required, and the home owner will be asked to book an audit during a select time period.

The purpose of the five yearly audit is to identify any changes to the property's plumbing, which may have occurred since its last audit.

An owner can also request Council to undertake an audit of a property. This will be charged at a nominal fee in accordance with Council's fees and charges.

Each audit outcome and date is recorded on Council's dual reticulation register and a purple metal tag will be attached to the meter, which indicates when the property was last audited.

## Do I need to be home for an audit and how long will it take?

Yes you will need to be home. We need access to recycled and drinking water outlets, both internal and external. The audit will only take 30-40 minutes to complete and will require temporarily turning off your water at the meter. This is to check and ensure there are no cross connections.

## Does it cost me anything?

No, unless you require a second audit due to a failed audit or you request an audit from Council. Both the initial construction and five-yearly recycled water audit is a service provided by Council and is free.

For the current inspection cost visit [pmhc.nsw.gov.au/fees-and-charges](http://pmhc.nsw.gov.au/fees-and-charges) and view Council's current fees and charges.

## Getting connected

Recycled water is supplied to new properties through a separate pipe network which is colour coded purple for easy identification. Recycled water is only available for newly constructed dwellings in Lake Cathie/Bonny Hills and Thrumster. You will need to check with Council whether your property is within a dual reticulation area. Your builder or plumber will need to apply to Council for a water service connection, just as they do for drinking water connections. Your recycled water plumbing will then be checked by Council's Plumbing and Drainage Section during construction to ensure that it is properly installed.



[pmhc.nsw.gov.au/recycled-water](http://pmhc.nsw.gov.au/recycled-water)

Call Council's Customer Service Centre on 6581 8111  
or email [council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au)



## Steps to check for cross connections

### Check your home's recycled water connection:

**STEP 1** Turn off the drinking water supply at your property's meter and rainwater tank pump or valve.

**STEP 2** Turn on all internal drinking water taps. Taps should run dry.

**STEP 3** Flush all toilets. Toilets should refill if connected to recycled water supply.

**STEP 4** Turn on your external taps. Your drinking water tap should run dry. Taps continuing to run are connected to recycled water supply and should be coloured purple and marked with appropriate signs. Turn your drinking water supply back on.

### STEPS to Check a home's drinking water connection:

**STEP 1** Turn off your recycled water supply at your property's purple meter and rainwater tank pump or valve. Run recycled water supply dry via your purple external taps or toilet flushing.

**STEP 2** Turn on internal drinking water taps, such as the shower or kitchen sink tap. If these taps do not flow they are connected to the incorrect supply.

**STEP 3** Turn your recycled water supply back on at your property's purple water meter.

If you encounter problems while undertaking the check (e.g. a tap does not run dry when it should), you will need to contact a certified plumber to fix the fault. For water quality complaints or any other queries you should call Council for assistance on 6581 8111.

## What if there are problems with my plumbing?

The home owner is responsible for fixing any plumbing problems that are identified during the audit. If Council staff find recycled water is being supplied to any drinking water taps, then we will need to immediately disconnect the recycled water supply. For other issues Council may need to follow up or reaudit the property to ensure any issues have been corrected.



[pmhc.nsw.gov.au/recycled-water](https://pmhc.nsw.gov.au/recycled-water)

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