

## Schools' recycled water plumbing check

**A number of schools in Melbourne's outer south east are fortunate to have the benefit of two water supplies - drinking water and Class A recycled water**

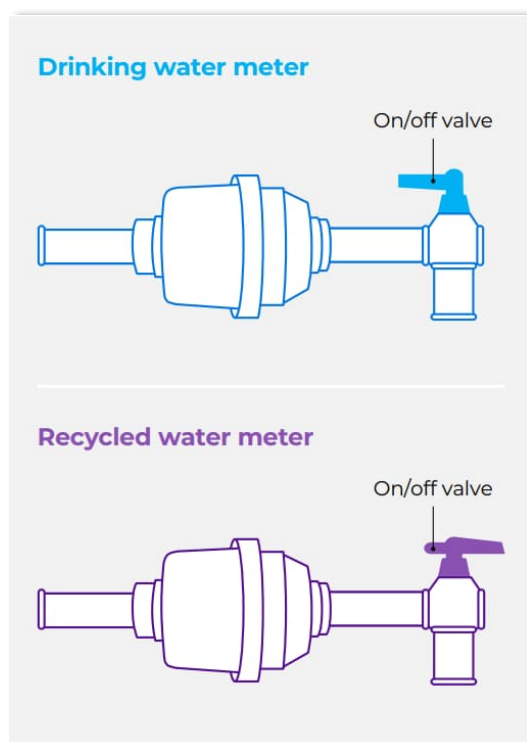
The recycled water is used for irrigating ovals and at some schools, to also flush toilets. If you're not sure whether your school has recycled water connected to its toilets, you can contact our recycled water team at [recycledwater@sew.com.au](mailto:recycledwater@sew.com.au) or on **03 9552 3219**.

It's important that you check your school's recycled water connection every year to make sure there's no cross connection with drinking water. This is especially important if you've had any plumbing, landscaping or renovation work done.

It's also important that you inform both the [Victorian Building Authority \(VBA\)](#) and South East Water of any plumbing work done on drinking or recycled water networks within your school.

**Here's how to do the check in four steps:**

- 1.** Turn off the valve on your drinking water meter. Leave the purple recycled water meter on.
- 2.** Turn on all sink and shower taps (hot and cold) one-by-one. All taps should run dry after a short time.
- 3.** If the toilets are connected to recycled water, after the taps have run dry from step 2, flush all toilets. They should refill as normal.
- 4.** Turn on all outdoor taps. All outdoor drinking water taps (if you have them) should run dry, while the purple recycled water taps used for irrigating ovals should continue to run. If this doesn't happen it could mean there's a cross connection, which is where the two water supplies are connected to the wrong outlets.



## How to let us know your school has had plumbing work done

If you've had any work done, or intend to, on the drinking or recycled water networks within your school, you need to email **audits@vba.vic.gov.au** and **recycledwater@sew.com.au** with the following:

The business name of your plumber, your plumber's licence/registration number and Australian Business Number (ABN). This should be on your invoice.

- The nature, location and date of the plumbing work.
- A copy of the compliance certificate. Compliance certificates are issued for plumbing works that have a total value of \$750 or more (including materials and any appliances, labour and GST) and are required to be provided to the person(s) contracting the plumber.

## It's all about ensuring the integrity of your water supplies

Doing an annual check is an important requirement of maintaining your school's water supplies. A cross connection would mean Class A recycled water is supplied to drinking taps, rather than its use for toilet flushing and irrigation.

Each year, we audit schools and businesses with recycled water connections to do our own check for cross-connections. If your school is selected to be audited, we'll contact you beforehand.

## Need to get in touch?

If you have any questions about your recycled water supply, you can email our Recycled Water Plumbing Team at **recycledwater@sew.com.au** or call them on **03 9552 3219**.

We're here to help.