

» recycled water facts safely disposing of chemicals



Factsheet No.6

21 June 2016

www.ballinawater.com.au

In 2016 Council began rolling out a recycled water service to households in the Ballina Shire. The scheme will ultimately supply to some 7200 homes across the Shire.

» Help make recycled water safe by safely disposing of chemicals and hazardous liquid waste

Hazardous liquid wastes can include a wide variety of substances including **paints, fuels, solvents, acids, pesticides** and even metals such as **mercury**. These wastes are dangerous to people and pets, and can cause serious property damage and harm the environment. They should never be poured down the sewer or stormwater system.

That's why Council provides a safe and accessible avenue for the disposal of hazardous liquid wastes. This service supports Council's goals to provide safe, high-quality recycled water that consistently meets the requirements of the Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling by reducing or avoiding impacts from disposal of prohibited substances into the sewerage system. It also helps provide a safe working environment for Council staff managing wastewater and stormwater systems.

» Where is Council's free facility for the disposal of liquid wastes?

Council provides a free, safe and accessible facility at 313 Wyrallah Road Lismore for the disposal of liquid wastes.

Substances accepted at the facility include:

- acetylene, hydrogen, LP gas and aerosols
- methylated spirits, acetone, paint thinners, petrol
- kerosene, turpentine
- paints (oil and water based), adhesives
- pesticides, herbicides, rat poison, arsenic, dieldrin, diquat, endosulphan
- pool acid, concrete cleaner, car batteries, muriatic acid, hydrochloric acid
- caustic soda, bleach, ammonia solutions, drain cleaner, liquid pool chlorine
- motor oils, transmission oils, hydraulic oils, vegetable oils
- any unidentified hazardous substances.

» How do I know which products to pour down the sink?

Even products that get poured down the sinks and drains block the sewers. The disposal of oils and fats into sinks is a growing problem in the Shire. Oils and fats solidify on the walls of the pipelines and over time cause constrictions which can result in blockages. If in doubt, dispose of the product in the bin and not the sink, to prevent costly maintenance and repairs.

»» Fast facts on wastewater

Residential wastewater accounts for over 80 per cent of all wastewater that reaches the Lennox Head and Ballina Wastewater Treatment Plants. This water is generated from household laundries, kitchens, bathrooms and toilets.

The other 20 per cent is commercial and non-residential wastewater which is classified as liquid trade. The management of recycled water requires that sound regulation of liquid trade waste is undertaken by Council. This ensures that prohibited substances like hair bleach and other harmful amounts of commercial wastes are prevented from entering our sewerage system. All commercial premises connected to the Council's sewer system has liquid trade waste registered with Council.

»» Remember The Three P's...

Only flush pee, poo and paper down the toilet. Even products labelled 'flushable' should not be flushed as they do not disintegrate like toilet paper. Toilet paper breaks down in minutes but other products remain intact even after months submerged in water. Items that are often flushed but should not be, and are often found in our wastewater systems include cleansing wipes, nappies, colostomy bags, cotton wool, make-up pads, cotton buds, dental floss, sanitary items, condoms and even plastic toys. All of these items should be put in the general waste bin as they cause havoc with our sewerage system.

»» Did you know?

The Lennox Head Waste Water Treatment Plant collects and treats sewerage from a mix of 11,000 residential homes and a small number of commercial premises. The volume varies depending on the weather but is usually around four million litres a day.

Recycled water is then generated with the Lennox Head plant capable of producing up to 4.5 million litres a day.

»» How is recycled water being used?

Recycled water is ideal for household uses such as washing cars, bikes and boats, flushing toilets, filling ornamental ponds, the cold water washing machine tap and irrigating gardens.

Recycled water is not recommended for some uses such as drinking, bathing and cooking but if you accidentally use recycled water in this way, it is unlikely you will fall ill. If you think you may have used recycled water in this way please contact Ballina Shire Council and seek medical advice.

Recycled water is a drought proof water source and there are no restrictions during droughts. It also helps to reduce the impact of wastewater discharge on our waterways.

Help us to safely use recycled water and keep our waterways clean by disposing of hazardous wastes in a responsible manner.

The information in this factsheet only applies to the Lennox Head and Ballina recycled water schemes. For information about the Alstonville and Wardell recycled water schemes please refer to Factsheet No 8.



Need more info? Visit our water website ballinawater.com.au

T 02 6686 4444 E council@ballina.nsw.gov.au

