

Here's What Residential Recycled Water Filling Station Customers Are Saying About This Free Service



Michael Nunn, Clayton

"This is just a quick note to let you know how pleased I am with your new residential recycled water program. The application process was quick and easy. The workers at the filling station are efficient, friendly, and knowledgeable. I'm using a 275-gallon tote to transport the water. At home, I gravity-feed the water through a standard hose to irrigate the plants in my front yard. I will be using this service at least five times a week."



Jann Taylor, Lafayette

Initially, we brought four 55-gallon drums to the filling station. After the first week, we purchased two more from Ace Hardware in Martinez. We are now considering a fellow recycler's offer of two 275-gallon totes so we can store some of the water for mid-week watering of our orchard and garden.

It is easy to pull up to the station and fill. Sometimes, if we are the only ones there, we can use two hoses and fill 300 gallons in less than ten minutes. The employees are helpful and friendly. One was helping a lady who had 58 one-gallon bottles to fill!

We use the recycled water to hand-water our orchard, garden, rose garden and the tree in our lawn.

Water is very heavy: 8 pounds to the gallon. So the filling station staff cautions drivers to slow down and leave a lot of space between their car and the next. I can feel the weight of the water pushing our SUV from the trailer.

Although the time investment has been large, there has been the reward of working closely with our plants. As I'm watering, I think to cut roses to give to my mother each week or to bring to our school secretaries; I harvest the rhubarb because I am outside more often looking for things to do while I water each plant for three minutes. Unexpectedly, this recycled watering "chore" has changed our relationship with our home and yard in a lovely way.



Rich Mohr, Pleasant Hill



Regarding my use of your recycled water... first thing was to acquire 15 5-gallon plastic "drinking" water containers given the need, in my case, for handling/distributing the water in my lawn/garden area. Locally, I found the market price per container was quoted at \$16 each from a drinking water conveyor. I searched area providers and found the least cost was from Culligan water in Livermore (\$6 each).

All of the employees that oversee the filling station have been most helpful in facilitating the loading of water. In my case, filling smaller containers (as compared to off-takers of volumes into much larger tanks) is more safely done at lower pressure. All of your employees have been very responsive to lowering the pressure to avoid spills/overfills.

At home I transfer the 5-gallon containers into both 30- and 45-gallon dolly-mounted PVC containers. From there I immerse a sprinkling can into the PVC containers to fill, and then hand-sprinkle both lawn and garden areas as needed. Both of these larger PVC containers required re-filling, and instead of returning them to my staging area, I learned to, instead, stage several 5-gallon containers at the locations where the refilling would be required. Pushing a full 45-gallon container of water isn't the easiest thing to do!

I don't know what I'm going to do with my time when precipitation and snow pack levels return to normal!

Jean Hansen, Orinda

Thank you for offering this recycling program. My husband and I have been going to the filling station at least three times a week for several weeks now, and we believe this is the most valuable service the District has ever provided.

We only use the water to irrigate our garden, which includes both vegetables and flowers. We are fierce conservationists and replaced our lawns with artificial grass in 2009; they look beautiful and do not require any water. In 2013, we used an average of 1000 gallons of water a day. In 2014, we used an average of 800 gallons a day. And this year, 2015, our goal was to use only 500 gallons of water a day, but our usage has already decreased to an average of 300 gallons a day. Without doubt, this reduction in potable water usage is directly related to the recycled water program.

The filling station is easy to access and easy to use. A short ride from 680 and highway 4 brings you to a few right and left turns, and you arrive at the Sanitary District. It is clearly marked to direct cars to the station. The people who work at the station are very helpful, efficient, and knowledgeable.

We usually obtain 90 gallons of water in 1-gallon and 2½-gallon containers, and this only takes about 20 minutes. Most people bring much larger containers than we do - more along the lines of 5- or 10-gallon containers - but these generally need some sort of pump to irrigate a garden because they are very heavy to maneuver. As a small and middle-aged woman, the 1-gallon containers (approx. 8 lbs.) are the easiest to use, although even I can carry the 2½-gallon containers (approx. 20 lbs.).

Water is much heavier than most people realize and there is a restriction on how much water can be transported in any car or truck at one time. Each vehicle has "weight load" limits which include both the weight of the passengers and the weight of the water itself. This information is usually found in the owner's manual or on a sticker inside the front door. These weight limits must be followed at the fill station; however, there is no limit on the number of times per day that a resident can obtain water, so there is great flexibility to meet the needs of most consumers.

The filling station is well staffed and we have never had to wait in a line to obtain the water. In fact, we have been surprised that more residents do not use

the recycled water. It is a great resource, and for anyone who is curious, or who is losing flowers, vegetables or plants to the drought, I would recommend checking it out because I am sure it will be the first of many more visits to come.

As you can see I am very enthusiastic about the Sanitary District's recycled water program!

Jennifer Jenny, Pleasant Hill

I use 5-gallon Coleman water jugs for the water. There are 8 of them so it is 40 gallons per trip. My husband is also enrolled in the program so one of us refills the jugs each day the facility is open.

The filling station is very easy to use, and everyone who works there is helpful and professional. Troy is usually the one who is there, and he is great :) I think somebody who is not physically strong would have a difficult time using the refill station because the water containers can get heavy!

We use the water for irrigating our landscaping. It has really been a lifesaver since we are cutting back on potable water use due to the drought.

Marilyn Johnston, Pleasant Hill

I am using 1-gallon containers, 3-gallon containers and 5-gallon containers. The 1-gallon containers are milk jugs, soap containers, and water jugs. I have a 5-gallon container that does get pretty heavy, so it is mostly filled up to three-quarters full.

I saw at the filling station someone using 5-gallon camping water jugs, and I bought four of these. But for me they are too squishy, and the spout needs to be removed to pour out the water. So these did not work for me. I then found 3-gallon containers (at Walmart) that for me are perfect. As soon as I empty the containers I put them in my car, so that if I am in the area I can fill them up.

The filling station is extremely user-friendly and the young men working there are very helpful. I've never had to wait more than five minutes to get water.

I am using the water to keep my plants watered and alive. I will only water outdoor plants two times a week and my grass is going brown. I do wonder how my trees are going to fair this summer.

I have told my friends about this great way to get water for plants and am encouraging everyone to try it. (I have made one convert already.) I am so lucky that it is close to where I live!



Lisa Giolzetti, Danville

I bought four aqua-tainers that hold 7 gallons each. They are approximately 56 pounds when full so I put them in the back of the car to fill them, or the attendant helps lift them into the car. My husband takes them out of the car for me and puts them on the table in the backyard, and then I use an attached spout to fill my watering can. I try to water after the sun goes down so the heat of the sun doesn't evaporate the water as quickly before the plants have a chance to drink.

We just started doing this twice per week and have been able to turn off our sprinkler station #12 which watered 8 flower beds. We are saving 224 gallons a month with just one station! I have gone to Martinez as well as the Pleasanton locations to get water and Martinez is much less crowded and always has someone to help me!

Thank you for providing this service!