

# Water

## Reclaimed Water Systems (Wastewater Treatment)

**What Activities Require These Permits?** Where water is used for certain activities that do not include drinking, bathing, or cooking, permits for reclaimed water may be granted for certain purposes. Examples of uses of reclaimed water include golf course irrigation, concrete cutting, decorative ponds and fountains, fire-fighting and fire extinguishing, power washing of commercial vehicles, industrial and commercial cooling water, and many other uses. Reclaimed water is wastewater effluent that has been highly treated and meets the reclaimed water effluent criteria that is protective of human health.

**What Is The Purpose of These Permits?** Reclaimed water permits are intended to alleviate the effects of drought and for the beneficial use of non-potable water. Reclaimed water reduces stress on drinking water resources, costs less than potable water, and reduces nutrient loading to waterways.

**Who Issues These Permits?** N.C. Division of Water Resources, Water Quality Permitting Section / Non-Discharge Branch.

### How Much Will These Permits Cost?

Non-Discharge Activity	New Permit Application Fee	Major Modification Application Fee	Facility's Annual Fee
Non-Discharge Major Permits (≥ 10,000 gallons per day)	\$1,310	\$395	\$1,310
Non-Discharge Minor Permits (< 10,000 gallons per day)	\$810	\$245	\$810

**What Are My Payment Options for Permit Application Fees?** Check, Money Order, or Electronic Transfer.

**If Paying by Check, Who do I Make the Check Payable to and Where Do I Send the Check?** Made payable to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) and sent to NC Division of Water Resources, Water Quality Permitting Section / Non-Discharge Branch, 1617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1617.

**Where Can I Get The Application For These Permits?** <http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits/wastewater-branch/non-discharge-permitting-unit/application>

**How Long Will It Take To Review My Application?** The statutory review time is 90 days from receipt of a complete application. If the application is not complete, an additional information letter shall advise the applicant how the application may be modified to make it complete. If all required information is not submitted within 30 days, the application will be returned as incomplete.

**Where Do I Submit My Application?** Permit applications are submitted electronically using the Electronic Application and Document Upload form (<https://edocs.deq.nc.gov/Forms/NonDischarge-Branch-Submittal-Form-Ver2>), or by email to [Non-Discharge.Reports@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Non-Discharge.Reports@ncdenr.gov) (for applications smaller than 20 MB).

**How Long Is My Permit or License or Certificate Valid?** A reclaimed water permit remains valid up to eight years. Permit renewals are submitted 180 days prior to expiration.

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### Notes/Comments:

State rules divide reclaimed water systems into conjunctive and dedicated systems.

A **dedicated** system is a wastewater treatment system that relies on reclaimed water uses to account for all of the generated effluent. Due to the need to continuously dispose of the generated reclaimed water, there are additional requirements that address system reliability in permitting these types of systems.

A **conjunctive** system is a system that has the ability to discharge all of the generated effluent by another means, typically a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System or non-discharge permit, in the event that the treated wastewater does not meet reclaimed water quality criteria, or the reclaimed water users are unable to utilize the volume of reclaimed water generated. Since the permittee has another means of disposing of the treated wastewater, the permit application requirements are not as encompassing as a dedicated system, since the system has already been approved through another permitting processes. All bulk fill stations are conjunctive reclaimed water systems.

**Bulk reclaimed water fill stations** are conjunctive systems where reclaimed water is hauled from the generating facility, typically in tanker trucks, and is used for pre-approved applications by certified users. To be permitted for a bulk reclaimed water fill station, the permittee must first demonstrate that the treated wastewater meets the reclaimed water effluent quality criteria, and that adequate educational and operational programs are in place to assure proper use of the reclaimed water.

**Reclaimed water local program approval** permits are available to municipalities and other governmental organizations that can demonstrate the ability to implement and manage their own reclaimed water permitting program. Delegation may be given for permitting of distribution systems and/or conjunctive reclaimed water users within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the entity seeking delegation.

Note that reclaimed water is **not** the same as grey water. For more information about grey water recycling systems, contact the N.C. Building Code Council at (919) 661-5880, or the N.C. Department of Insurance at 1-800-546-5664.

**Legal Authority/Statute Reference:** 15A NCAC 02U

**Link:** <http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits/wastewater-branch/non-discharge-permitting>

### Statewide Contact Information:

NC Division of Water Resources  
Water Quality Permitting Section / Non-Discharge Branch  
1617 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1617  
Telephone: (919) 707-3654