



RECYCLED WATER GUIDE #2:
**STEPS FOR LANDSCAPING PLAN
APPROVAL AND INSTALLATION**

HOW TO OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPING

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WHY DO I NEED TO OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR MY LANDSCAPING PLAN?

Independence is committed to sustainable strategies to preserve our groundwater supply. A part of the strategy is to use recycled water for outdoor irrigation – including private residences. Presently, customers in Independence can use recycled water for the irrigation of lawns, trees, shrubs, and other landscape plants.

Recycled water is highly treated wastewater and is regulated by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (Regulation 84). The Independence Water and Sanitation District's (District) recycled water is treated to high levels and can be used for the irrigation of parks, open spaces, and customers' yards.

Do not use recycled water for:

- Drinking
- Children's toys and wading pools
- Vegetable garden irrigation
- Hot tubs
- Washing of cars, driveways, home siding, etc.
- Outdoor fountains or water features
- Indoor uses

Because there are some rules associated with recycled water, Independence requires homeowners to have their landscaping plans reviewed and approved prior to installation. This process ensures that:

- The landscaping is designed and installed in a manner that is in compliance with Regulation 84.
- Homeowners have an opportunity to learn the requirements of Regulation 84.
- Independence has an opportunity to provide tips and techniques for efficient and effective irrigation.
- Independence has a record of how much area on each lot is irrigated with recycled water.

THE FOUR STEPS

Follow this guide to Outdoor Residential Landscaping Plan approvals. Independence will assist you with each step of the process. This process applies to new and modified residential landscaping.

STEP 1:

PREPARE LANDSCAPING PLANS

The landscaping plans do NOT need to be designed by a professional. However, the drawings should include the following information:

1. Address of property
2. Name of property owner
3. Name of applicant (if a renter) with signature of property owner
4. Scaled plan view of the property showing the:
 - a. Extent of the property line
 - b. House footprint
 - c. Alignment and type of fencing (including dog runs)
 - d. Driveway, front patio, and front walkway footprints
 - e. Back deck/patio footprint
 - f. Hardscaped areas (not irrigated), including sheds, playhouses, and pet structures
 - g. Sod areas
 - h. Trees/shrubs/flower bed areas – identify if drip or spray irrigation
 - i. Vegetable gardens – identify if drip or spray irrigation
(NOTE: vegetable gardens must be irrigated with potable water)
 - j. Approximate location of the irrigation valve box and shut-off valve

STEP 2:

SUBMIT YOUR DRAWINGS TO THE DISTRICT

Submit your drawings and application to the District for review and comment. The District may have comments that must be addressed prior to receiving final approval. Once the drawings have been approved, the District will provide a Notice of Approval.

STEP 3:

INSTALL YOUR LANDSCAPING

Once you have the Notice of Approval, you may commence work on your landscaping. There are a few items to consider when installing the landscaping:

- All buried irrigation lines, sprinkler heads, and valve box lids must be the color purple. Purple is the industry standard for recycled water and lets people know that the yard has a recycled water supply.
- Spray from sprinkler heads should be directed away from the sidewalk, driveway, patio, sitting areas, play equipment, sandboxes, house structure, fence, and adjacent properties.
- Wash your hands with soap and water after maintaining the irrigation system or being in contact with recycled water.
- Any landscaping contractor that does work on the irrigation system must receive training from the District prior to starting work.

The procedures to follow when using your irrigation system can be found in Guide #3 (“Customer Responsibilities”).

Once you are ready to establish your plants, notify the District so it is aware you will be applying extra irrigation water. Your establishment period is two weeks.

STEP 4:

SCHEDULE A SITE INSPECTION WITH THE DISTRICT

After your landscaping is installed, schedule an on-site inspection with a District representative. The inspector will determine if the landscaping was installed per the approved landscaping drawings. If portions of the work are not in compliance with Regulation 84 or the District’s standards, the work will need to be redone. Minor differences will be noted on the amended landscaping plans.