Using recycled farm dairy effluent water for yard wash-down (6-65)

A change to the New Zealand Code of Practice for the Design and Operation of Farm Dairies (NZCP1) allows farmers to use Farm Dairy Effluent (FDE) water for yard wash-down, so long as strict guidelines and criteria are followed.

Recycling FDE water for yard wash-down can significantly reduce fresh water use and the volume of effluent which needs to be managed.

Using recycled FDE for yard wash must be managed to prevent any possible risk to food safety.

**Essential practices to prevent risk to food safety**

- Yards must be washed after every milking
- Yards must be free of residual sediment after every wash and kept clean
- Recycled wastewater must not carry any offensive odour – either during or after application
- Recycled wastewater is only to be used on the yard or pad area, it must not have any contact with the milking area or with the milk receiving/storage areas
- Recycled water delivery methods must be:
  - low pressure design, for example:
    - a gravity operated flood wash
    - a low pressure pumping system
  - of fixed design, i.e. must not include hand held hoses
  - separate from the fresh water wash down system
  - If pumped, delivery method must be no greater than 300mm above ground level
- The recycled wastewater system must be supported by an effluent system that is compliant with the local regional council rules
- Your farm must have an operative nutrient management plan.

DairyNZ strongly advise farmers to seek expert opinion before modifying an effluent system to recycle FDE for yard wash. Please contact your Food Safety/Milk Quality team before modifying your system.

For further information about the cleaning requirements of the farm dairy yards, refer to NZCP1 (section 8). To find this document, visit [www.foodsafety.govt.nz](http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz) and search NZCP1 in the Industry E-library.