

Greywater Guidelines

What is greywater? Greywater is wastewater generated from:

- Bathrooms - showers, baths, spas and hand basins. This does not include toilet wastewater.
- Laundries - washing machines, troughs.
- Kitchens - sinks and dishwashers. Kitchen water may contain food particles, grease, oils and fats and reuse is not recommended without treatment.

Greywater characteristics: The quality of greywater can vary due to factors such as number of household occupants, their age, lifestyle, health, water source and products used (for example, soaps, shampoos and detergents). Greywater may contain:

- Disease-causing organisms from nappies and soiled clothing
- Chemicals from soaps, shampoos, dyes, mouthwash, toothpaste, detergents, bleaches and disinfectants may be moderately saline and have a high pH.
- Dirt, lint, food scraps, hair, body cells and fats and traces of faeces, urine, and blood

However, you can reduce the risks presented by these contaminants through good management practices.

How can greywater be used? Greywater has many uses and should be treated in different ways to reduce the risks and get the most benefits.

Outdoors:

- Garden irrigation. For this you do not need to treat the greywater first but you should refer to the Department of Health [see page 2] for information on sensible use. In particular, you should not use greywater to irrigate fruit, vegetables or areas where fruit can fall to the ground and be eaten.
- Car washing. You will need to treat the greywater first.

Indoors:

- Bathroom and laundry. You need to treat the greywater first for use indoors. When you flush the toilet you create an aerosol-like effect and potential splashing may occur, so greywater must be treated to a certain standard to protect your health. In addition, some problems have been experienced with toilet cisterns operating on greywater due to microbial growth interfering with the flushing operation.

As greywater quality can be poor, it may affect public health if it is not used appropriately. Therefore, guidelines have been developed to help people who are considering using greywater at home. If you wish to use greywater, please refer to the Department of Health [details on page 2].

Methods for distributing greywater: There are two key ways to use greywater – either through temporary bucketing/hosing, or through a permanently plumbed [fixed] system. Permanently plumbed systems include:

- Domestic greywater diversion devices which divert greywater without storage or treatment
- Domestic greywater treatment systems which collect and treat greywater to a higher quality

The information on page 2 will help you understand what you need to do for each of these methods.

Further Information

Ph: 1300 650 950

Web: www.sawater.com.au

Email: customerservice@sawater.com.au

MANUAL BUCKETING AND HOSING OF GREYWATER

This refers to manual transfer of greywater to lawn and garden areas from the bathroom or laundry, or temporary use of a hose manually fitted to the washing machine outlet hose. If you wish to do this:

- Step 1: Either phone the Department of Health for information or view the Department's fact sheet on manual greywater use at: <http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/branches/wastewater/greywater-manual-bucketing-jan07.pdf>
No formal approvals are required.

PERMANENTLY PLUMBED GREYWATER DEVICES - IN SA WATER SEWERED SYSTEMS

This refers to fixed devices. These steps are required if your property is connected to the sewer or to a septic system in a sewer area:

- Step 1: Apply to the Department of Health for approval to install a permanent diversion device (an application fee applies). ***Inquiries: Wastewater Management Section – phone 8226 7100***
- Step 2: Contact SA Water for an 'Installation of Greywater System in Sewered Area' form and return this form to: ***SA Water Development Services, Building H, East Terrace, Thebarton SA 5031***
Supporting documentation, including approval from the Department of Health and details of the installation/unit must be included (no application fee required). ***Inquiries: SA Water Standard & Legislation Manager – phone 8207 1400 or Senior Compliance Officer – phone 8463 6055***
- Step 3: SA Water will consider and assess the application to ensure it meets regulatory and legislative requirements and approval will:
- Provide a conditional authorisation
 - Require the diversion device to have an approved WaterMark
 - Require the system to be installed by a licensed plumber
- Once the device has been installed and audited an encumbrance will be placed on the property.
- Step 4: Arrange for a licensed plumber to install the diversion device in accordance with the AS/NZS 3500 plumbing standards. Upon the installation of the device, the plumber shall issue a Certificate of Compliance providing a copy of the documentation to both SA Water and the property owner within 7 days of completing the work.
- Step 5: SA Water will audit the property at no charge to the applicant to ensure the device has been installed in line with the conditions of authorisation and current plumbing standards.
- Step 6: SA Water will arrange an encumbrance to be issued on the property to record the presence of the device. This will be sent to the applicant upon completion.

PERMANENTLY PLUMBED GREYWATER DEVICES - IN NON-SA WATER SEWERED SYSTEMS

This refers to fixed devices. These steps are required if your property is in a non- SA Water sewer area (ie areas that are privately sewer, or have no common drainage system or where there is a Septic Tank Effluent Disposal System (STEDS) :

- Step 1: Apply to the Department of Health for approval to install a permanent diversion device (an application fee applies). ***Inquiries: Wastewater Management Section – phone 8226 7100***
- Step 2: Seek approval from your local council to divert greywater from your septic tank or from any common drainage system eg STEDS. ***Inquiries: Environmental Health Officer at your local council***
- Step 3: Arrange a licensed plumber to install the device in accordance with AS/NZS 3500 plumbing standards.

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