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MEDIA RELEASE

PLUMBING REMINDER FOR GREY WATER SYSTEMS

SA Water is reminding the South Australian community to use licensed plumbers when installing grey water systems.

Grey water includes wastewater generated from showers, baths, spas and hand basins, laundries (washing machines and troughs). Kitchen water is generally excluded from grey water systems as it can be heavily polluted.

SA Water Chief Operating Officer John Ringham says reusing grey water appropriately is a good way to conserve water and the use of grey water is not covered by the level 2 restrictions.

“However, grey water systems that are connected to SA Water infrastructure and require any plumbing modifications must, by law, be installed by a licensed plumber to maintain the integrity of our water network and protect public health,” Mr Ringham said.

“By having a properly designed and installed grey water system homeowners are ensuring they receive the optimum benefit of using their grey water.”

Other considerations for a grey water system include ensuring the garden has enough surface area to effectively distribute grey water, incorporating design to prevent pooling and using irrigation that will minimise human and animal contact with grey water.

Anyone wishing to install a permanent grey water system requires approval from the Department of Health before contacting SA Water for installation approval into existing infrastructure. However, manual bucketing and temporary syphoning of grey water is allowed.

For more information on using grey water with manual application in the garden refer to the Department of Health’s Grey Water Manual Bucketing fact sheet at www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs