

# Gray Water System Information Sheet



## What Is Gray Water?

Gray water is untreated waste water from the following fixtures: bathtubs, showers, bathroom sinks, and clothes washers. It does NOT include laundry water from washing diapers or similarly soiled or infectious garments or from dishwashers, kitchen or utility sinks or toilets.

## How Can I Use It?

Gray water may be used to water landscape and some edible plants. Edible plants can be watered with graywater as long as it does not touch the edible parts of the plant. This also means that it cannot be used on root crops, such as carrots, radishes, and potatoes.

## What Are The Rules?

Regulations for graywater systems used for outdoor irrigation were adopted in 2009 and are found in the California Plumbing Code (CPC), Chapter 16A. A copy of the code can be found here:

<http://www.iapmo.org/2010%20California%20Plumbing%20Code/Chapter%2016A.pdf>

In Del Mar, an Administrative Design Review (ADR) is required if there are components of the system (such as a surge tank) that are 12" or more above grade.

## Do I Need A Building Permit?

A building permit is **not** required for systems that meet **ALL** of the following requirements:

- Graywater comes from the washing machine only.
- The system does not alter the household plumbing (the graywater comes from the hose of the machine, not by cutting into the plumbing).
- The system is for a one- or two-unit residential building.
- The system follows the 12 guidelines in the California Plumbing Code, Appendix B, "Operation and Maintenance Manual for Laundry-to-Landscape Graywater System".

A building permit **is** required for systems that include **ANY** of the following:

- The system uses water collected from showers, sinks or baths.
- The system alters the plumbing (you cut into the drainage plumbing to access the graywater).
- The system is installed in a building that is not a one- or two-unit residential building.
- The system includes a pump (besides the washing machine's internal pump) or a tank.

For additional information about permitting a graywater system, contact the Building Department at 858-720-4450.

## Other Resources for Information:

- Art Ludwig: <http://oasisdesign.net/greywater/>
- Brad Landcaster: <http://www.harvestingrainwater.com/greywater-harvesting/>
- County of San Diego: [http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/deh/lwqd/lu\\_graywater\\_systems.html](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/deh/lwqd/lu_graywater_systems.html)
- Greywater Action: <http://greywateraction.org/system-examples-gw/>
- San Diego County Water Authority: <https://www.fpud.com/PublicRelations/Pressroom/GraywaterFactSheet.pdf>

**\* The City of Del Mar does not endorse these entities. Provided for reference information only.**

## List of Local Installers:

<http://sdsustainable.org/services-and-programs/the-great-greywater-challenge/greywater-systems-installers/>