



# Greywater Fact Sheet

## What is greywater?

Greywater is wastewater from a bath, basin, laundry or shower. Kitchen greywater is not suitable for use in sewered areas. Kitchen greywater must be discharged into the sewerage system.

## Can I re-use greywater on the garden?

Greywater can be re-used as long as the installation complies with the requirements of the *Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code*. To divert greywater from laundries and bathrooms, you can:

- use a bucket to manually remove untreated greywater (except kitchen greywater);
- connect a flexible hose to a washing machine outlet;
- as a licenced plumber, install a greywater diversion device or greywater treatment plant (with local government approval).

## Using untreated greywater safely

Use greywater with care. Greywater must not cause a danger, health hazard or nuisance through ponding or by creating run-off on to neighbouring properties and/or causing odour. To help prevent this, Council prefer 'below ground' irrigation systems, as they can be designed to suit the soil and other conditions in a garden.

## What is a greywater diversion device?

A greywater diversion device is a device that allows greywater to be safely applied to a land application area and allows you to divert the greywater back to the sewer system in periods of wet weather or in the event of overloading of the greywater application area. The device must contain the following:

- a filtering system that uses a coarse filter to remove solids from greywater;
- be fitted with a switch to divert greywater through to a subsurface or surface irrigation system;
- automatically diverts greywater from the facility to sanitary drainage if the device fails;
- have WaterMark approval, comply with plumbing laws and be installed by a licenced Plumber.

## What is a Greywater treatment plant?

A greywater treatment plant collects, stores, treats and disinfects greywater to specific standards. The household wastewater flows to a collection tank after passing through a filter screen. After biological treatment, liquid is passed through a filtering membrane and then disinfected. It then can be pumped out for irrigation or recycled for toilet flushing

## What is a greywater application area?

A greywater application area is land in which greywater is disposed of by sub surface or surface irrigation. Setback distances must be maintained from neighbouring properties, waterways and swimming pools.

## Checklist for re-using greywater

- only divert greywater from the bath, shower, hand basins and laundry;
- install signs around greywater irrigation systems to alert people that it is not drinking water;
- maintain separation distances from adjoining properties, waterways and stormwater drains;
- prevent odours, surface ponding or run-off from the greywater application areas;
- prevent children from playing the greywater application areas;
- prevent pets from walking through greywater application areas;
- choose laundry detergents with low phosphorous, sodium and nitrogen content;
- take care not to keep watering the same spot, it can affect soil and can cause plants to die;
- be careful when using greywater on native plants and do not use it on edible parts of fruits or vegetables;
- make sure greywater doesn't enter swimming pools or neighbouring properties.

## Where can I get more information?

For further information please contact Council's Customer Service Team on 1300 79 49 29.

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