

Greywater

What is greywater?



Wastewater generated from:

- bathrooms, including showers, baths and hand basins
- laundries, including washing machines and troughs
- kitchens, including sinks and dishwashers.

Kitchen wastewater can contain food particles, grease, oils and fats and its use is **not recommended**, particularly without treatment.

Installation of **permanent** greywater systems **requires approval** from the local council.

Use of greywater



- Untreated greywater must only be used via subsurface irrigation.
- Subsurface irrigation systems reduce exposure to humans, pets and other animals which may otherwise come into contact with the untreated greywater and potentially transfer disease causing organisms.

Cost treatment only \$700 - \$1,500

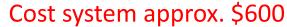


- Specific setback distances from buildings, boundaries, wells, bores, watercourses, swimming pools and rainwater tanks are required to be met for all irrigation systems. See the SA Health On-site Wastewater Systems Code April 2013
- Greywater must not be used to irrigate fruit, vegetables, or areas where fruit can fall to the ground and be eaten.

Greywater use tips

WATER
SENSITIVE SA

- Environmentally friendly shampoos, detergents and cleaning products should be used to protect soil and plants watered with grey water
- Products containing low levels of boron, phosphorus and salt should be used. Boron can be toxic to plants, some native plants are sensitive to phosphorous while sodium and other salts can damage soil structure
- Washing machine rinse water has lower concentrations of detergents compared to wash water. If wash water is used it should be diluted with rinse water
- Bleaches and disinfectants can kill beneficial soil organisms and damage plants. Avoid using greywater containing harsh chemicals or bleaches, hair dye or paint products





Source: enter-shop.com.au

More greywater use tips



- Prevent pooling and runoff of greywater onto other properties, into watercourses and the stormwater system. Pooled greywater can turn septic and produce offensive odours.
- Greywater tends to be slightly alkaline and this can be harmful to acid loving plants such as azaleas and camellias.
- Monitor areas and plants irrigated with greywater. If there is visual evidence of damage you may need to modify watering practices, try a different or bigger irrigation area, or reduce the amount of water used.



Source: smallstepsforsustainability.blogspot.com