

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.
- 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.

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



Greywater use tips

Cost system approx. \$600



Source: enter-shop.com.au

- **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**

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