

GRAYWATER

Laundry-to-Landscape Systems

This document provides an overview of the steps and considerations involved with installing laundry-to-landscape systems—the most accessible source of graywater. Laundry-to-landscape systems do not require a building permit if the requirements outlined in Chapter 15 of the 2019 California Plumbing Code are followed.

Estimate your Graywater Production

Weekly Graywater Produced = Loads per Week x Gallons per Load

Decide What Plants to Irrigate

Plants with larger root zones do better with graywater-irrigation. The plants stay happier and healthier with consistent laundry water patterns.

Best for Graywater-Irrigation

Trees (especially fruit trees!)
Shrubs/bushes
Vines
Perennials
Large annuals

Not Appropriate for Graywater-Irrigation

Lawns
Drought Established (e.g. Never irrigated)
Small Plants, Sensitive Plants (e.g. Ferns)
No root vegetables
Not For Use in Raised Beds



For those with existing irrigation systems, identify a zone/valve that can be shut off and replaced with graywater.

1503.1.1 Clothes Washer System. A clothes washer system in compliance with all of the following is exempt from the construction permit and may be installed or altered without a construction permit:

1. If required, notification has been provided to the Enforcing Agency regarding the proposed location and installation of a graywater irrigation or disposal system.

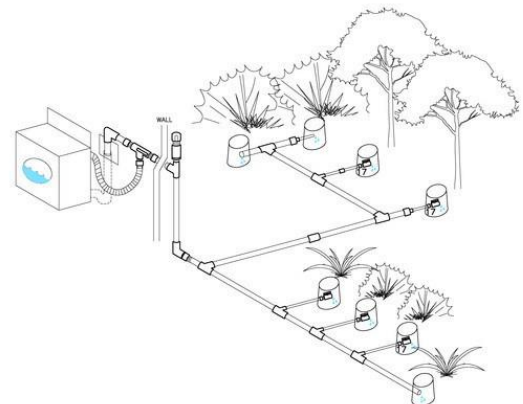
NOTE – The City of Dublin does not require notification of a clothes washer system.

2. The design shall allow the user to direct the flow to the irrigation or disposal field or the building sewer.
The direction control of the graywater shall be clearly labeled and readily accessible to the user.

3. The installation, change, alteration or repair of the system does not include a potable water connection or a pump and does not affect other building, plumbing, electrical or mechanical components including structural features, egress, fire-life safety, sanitation, potable water supply piping or accessibility.

Note: The pump in a clothes washer shall not be considered part of the graywater system.

4. The graywater shall be contained on the site where it is generated.



5. Graywater shall be directed to and contained within an irrigation or disposal field.

6. Ponding or runoff is prohibited and shall be considered a nuisance.

7. Graywater may be released above the ground surface provided at least two (2) inches (51 mm) of mulch, rock, or soil, or a solid shield covers the release point. Other methods which provide equivalent separation are also acceptable.

8. Graywater systems shall be designed to minimize contact with humans and domestic pets.

9. Water used to wash diapers or similarly soiled or infectious garments shall not be used and shall be diverted to the building sewer.

10. Graywater shall not contain hazardous chemicals derived from activities such as cleaning car parts, washing greasy or oily rags, or disposing of waste solutions from home photo labs or similar hobbyist or home occupational activities.

11. Exemption from construction permit requirements of this code shall not be deemed to grant authorization for any graywater system to be installed in a manner that violates other provisions of this code or any other laws or ordinances of the Enforcing Agency.

12. An operation and maintenance manual shall be provided. Directions shall indicate the manual is to remain with the building throughout the life of the system and indicate that upon change of ownership or occupancy, the new owner or tenant shall be notified the structure contains a graywater system.

13. Graywater discharge from a clothes washer system through a standpipe shall be properly trapped in accordance with Section 804.1.

Simple Graywater systems =“exceed a clothes washer system and are less than 250 gallons per day”, defined in CPC section 1503.1.2.

Complex Graywater systems =“any graywater system that is not a clothes washer or simple system, and over 250 gallons per day”, defined in CPC section 1503.1.3.

Both of these systems require plumbing plans and a building permit.

For more information on graywater systems, visit www.greywateraction.org

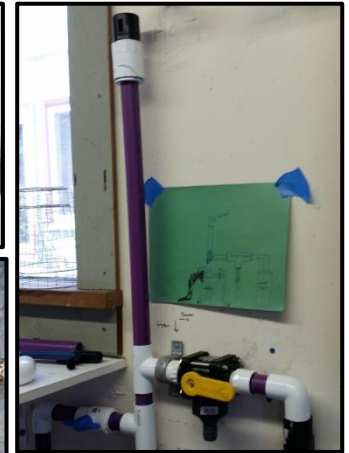


Photo credit: Central Coast Greywater Alliance and Greywater Action