

# GREYWATER

Greywater is waste water from the bath, shower, hand basin and laundry which can be diverted for reuse on lawns and gardens. Kitchen greywater is not suitable for reuse, as grease and oil can clog irrigation systems and build up on soil surfaces.

## Using greywater

Under the state government's *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002*, residents in sewered areas may use greywater by means of:

- manual bucketing (except kitchen greywater)
- connecting a flexible hose to a washing machine outlet
- greywater diversion devices and treatment plants by licensed plumbers, connected to an irrigation hose, surface or sub-surface system (with council approval)

Care should be taken if reusing greywater because of its:

- potential health risks to humans
- potential for environmental damage to soils, ground water, and waterways caused by increased nutrient and chemical levels.

## Council approval for greywater diversion and treatment systems

You will need a council permit before installing either:

- a greywater diversion device, which diverts greywater from the bath, shower, hand basin and/or laundry to an irrigation hose;
- a greywater treatment system, which collects the greywater and treats it to a high standard for reuse as garden irrigation.

You do not need a permit for manual bucketing or connection of a flexible hose to a washing machine outlet.

## Greywater diversion device

Greywater diversion devices may be installed for the diversion of untreated greywater. Installation must be carried out by a licensed plumber and consist of a filter that screens out hair, lint and other solids.

The device must be fitted with a switch to divert greywater through to a subsurface or surface irrigation system.

The system must also automatically divert to the sewer if there is a blockage.

Homeowners can control irrigation with the volume and type of greywater diverted.

Devices must have WaterMark approval and comply with the requirements of the Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation.

## Greywater treatment system

A greywater treatment plant collects, stores, treats and disinfects greywater to specific standards and can be installed in both sewered and unsewered areas. Installation must be carried out by a licensed plumber.

The Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code (QPW code) has been amended to provide for the level of treatment required for a particular end use.

Details are available in Table T1A, T1B or T1C of the QPW code.

Potential end uses include:

- toilet flushing;
- laundry use (cold water source to washing machines);
- vehicle washing;
- path and wall wash down
- lawn and garden spray irrigation.

## Information for Plumbers

The greywater guidelines for plumbers on the Department of Housing and Public Works website can help plumbers assess whether the home owner has suitable and sufficient land to distribute greywater.

Plumbers should use the guidelines to give advice on the purchase and installation costs of greywater systems, prior to the home owner making an application to council.

## Related Websites

Department of Housing and Public Works  
[www.hpw.qld.gov.au](http://www.hpw.qld.gov.au)

Queensland Plumbing & Wastewater Code  
[www.hpw.qld.gov.au](http://www.hpw.qld.gov.au)

*Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002*  
<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au>

