

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Greywater?

A: Greywater is untreated washwater that has not come into contact with toilet waste. Greywater includes but is not limited to wastewater from bathtubs, showers, bathroom washbasins, clothes washing machines, and laundry tubs, but does not include wastewater from kitchen sinks or dishwashers.

Q: Do I need a permit to have a greywater system?

A: Provided you follow the Guidelines for the Installation and use of Residential Laundry Greywater Disposal Systems (LGDS), you do not need a permit for your laundry to landscape system. However, your system must be reviewed and approved by the Building Division prior to installation. Submit a plot plan, illustrating where the leach line is to be located, to the Permit Center on the first floor of the Civic Center, 311 Vernon Street.

Q: What if I want to install a more complex greywater system that includes more than just my washing machine?

A: If you want to exceed the guidelines of a LGDS, your system will require a permit, and plans should be submitted at the Permit Center. The California Plumbing Code Chapter 16 A defines “simple” and “complex” systems that exceed the LGDS systems and the requirements and exceptions associated with these systems. For more information on simple and complex greywater systems requiring permits, please contact the Building Division at 916-774-5332.

Q: What plants should I avoid watering with greywater?

A: There is a significant amount of information available on this topic. However, as a general rule of thumb, greywater should not be used to irrigate food crops but is OK to irrigate trees and shrubs.

311 Vernon Street
Roseville, California 95678
www.roseville.ca.us



Greywater

Greywater is untreated washwater that has not come into contact with toilet waste. It can include washwater from bathtubs, showers, bathroom washbasins, clothes washing machines and laundry tubs but does not include washwater from kitchen sinks, dishwashers or toilets.

Laundry Greywater Disposal Systems (LGDS)

A LGDS is a greywater system utilizing a single domestic clothes washing machine in a one or two family dwelling does not require a plumbing permit provided the system does not require the cutting of the existing plumbing piping.

A LGDS is exempt from construction and/or plumbing permits provided it meets the following conditions:

- The system must allow the user to direct flow to either the disposal/irrigation field in the landscape, or to the building sewer system (such as a diverter valve) and must be clearly labeled and easily accessible by the user. Greywater disposal piping downstream of the diverter valve should be labeled as "CAUTION: NONPOTABLE WATER, DO NOT DRINK". All systems must have an air-gap or suitable backflow prevention to protect the potable water supply.
- The system must not include a potable water connection or a pump (except for the pump within the washing machine), and must not effect other building, plumbing, electrical, or mechanical components. The washing machine must be located at an exterior wall and greywater piping may not be concealed in the building walls. This is a gravity fed system into the landscape.
- Greywater must be contained on the site where it is generated. It may not be directed to an adjacent property or to the public street or road.
- Greywater must be directed to and contained within an irrigation

or disposal field. Specifications can be found in Chapter 16A of the California Plumbing code.

- Ponding or runoff from greywater is prohibited and will be considered a nuisance.
- Greywater may be released above the ground surface provided there is at least two (2) inches of mulch, rock, soil or a solid shield covering the release point.
- Greywater systems must be designed to minimize contact with humans and domestic pets.
- Any water used to wash diapers or similarly soiled or infectious garments must not be used and needs to be diverted to the building sewer via the diverter valve.
- Greywater must not contain hazardous chemicals derived from activities such as cleaning car parts, washing greasy or oily rags, or home occupational activities.
- Though an LGDS does not require a permit, it does not mean that you can install a system in any manner you choose. You must follow the provisions of the California Plumbing Code (CPC) Chapter 16A Section(s) 1603A.1.1 and #1 - #13. In addition, your system must be reviewed and approved by the Building Division prior to installation. Submit a plot plan, illustrating where the leach line is to be located, to the Permit Center on the first floor of the Civic Center, 311 Vernon Street.
- An operation and maintenance manual must be provided by the owner/installer. This manual must remain with the building throughout the life of the system.

Did you know?

Allowing water to soak into the ground is the most efficient way to recharge groundwater supplies and mimics the natural hydrologic function of soil in the water cycle.

Greywater Systems Requiring Permits

Any greywater system exceeding the guidelines of a LGDS will require permits and plans. The California Plumbing Code Chapter 16 A defines "simple" and "complex" systems and the requirements and exceptions associated with these systems. These systems range from reusing wash basin or shower water for toilet flushing to greywater water treatment systems that reuse water for multiple household or irrigation purposes. For more information, please contact the Building Division at 916-774-5332.

For More Information

- **2013 California Plumbing Code:**
<http://www.iapmo.org/Pages/2013CaliforniaPlumbingCode.aspx>
- **City of Roseville Building Division:**
311 Vernon Street
916-774-5332