

The Practical Guide of Graywater Dos and Don'ts

1. Do recycle graywater, especially laundry wastewater because no advance permit is required
2. Do not alter household plumbing but rather install a ball valve to convey to landscape
3. Do consider applying for a County of Mendocino permit to recycle tub and shower graywater
http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hhsa/pdf/chs_eh_landUse_GraywaterSystemGuidelines.pdf
4. Don't store graywater > 24 hours (usually storage is unnecessary and leads to fetid water)
5. Do apply graywater to soil or mulch basin in small doses to distributed outlets
6. Don't bother with collecting greywater from several places (instead use several smaller releases)
7. Do make use of a minimum pipe size of 1.5" - 2"
8. Don't apply to acid-loving plants or California natives as they may drown in a wet summer.
9. Do apply graywater to fruit trees at the soil/root interface don't spray leaves/fruits
10. Don't apply graywater to low growing fruits or vegetables eaten raw
11. Do apply underground into mulch basins perhaps with <2" free fall if possible and permissible
12. Don't use perf pipe (too easy to clog and does not distribute well after a month or two)
13. Do build/demand a system where you can see or hear drainage to evaluate system anytime
14. Don't use filter fabrics either, fabric clogs rapidly then degrades into tiny plastic pieces
15. Do use rigid pipe (flex pipe or hose makes U-shaped valleys where rotting particles accumulate)
16. Don't bother to filter out solids instead use 1.5" guideline as **smallest** orifice
17. Do slope base of **all** pipes and facilities at 2% toward intermediate and final destinations
18. Don't let graywater flow over the soil surface (pipe flow into mulch basin or soil)
19. Do irrigate plants who need summer water.
20. Don't spray graywater, (sprayers have small clogable orifices. Air spray makes disease potential)
21. Do customize a graywater plan to suit your individual home/homestead irrigation needs
22. Don't pump graywater (solids plug pump filter and burn out pump... slow drain with gravity)
23. Do conserve elevation of graywater outlet and maintain 2% downslope to destination

USE MILD BIODEGRADABLE SOAPS IF YOU INTEND TO RECLAIM GRAYWATER IN YOUR LANDSCAPE

Simplest graywater tips for low-tech reuse in water shortages without the benefit of piped plumbing

- 1) In kitchen or shower: collect cold water while the hot water heats up. Keep small buckets or pitchers in the shower or near the sink to collect this type of water anytime.
- 2) Use a bowl underneath to collect washings from fruits and vegetables.
- 3) In shower leave a bucket inside the shower with you and let it fill with overspray and graywater. Take graywater bucket outside to cool and apply within 24 hours to landscape.
- 4) In baths. Prior to draining tub fill buckets with used bathwater. Store bucketed graywater outside to cool and reuse as soon as possible but within 24 hours.
- 5) **Reuse graywater only for landscaping.** Graywater carries soaps, skin cells, and small concentrations of potentially harmful germs. It is NOT fit for any human or animal consumption.

WASH HANDS THOROUGHLY AFTER HANDLING ALL GRAYWATER IMMEDIATELY AND RINSE BUCKETS