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Mendocino County Guide to Graywater Reuse and Disposal

Inside you will find...

- 1 Graywater introduction and explanation. What is and isn't allowed
- 2 Now that you have decided to install a gray water system, here's how the process works
- 3 Finally, a complete list of the resources you will need to make your graywater system happen

3 Resources

The following resources can be found on our website at

<http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hhsa/chs/eh/landuse.htm>

Guidance Documents:

- Mendocino County Graywater System Guidelines for Outdoor Irrigation
- California System Requirements for Clothes Washer Systems
- Sample Operation & Maintenance Manual

These documents contain helpful information for considering if a graywater system is right for you, and how to install a clothes washer graywater system.

List of Qualified Site Evaluators:

Unless your system consists ONLY of a clothes washing machine, a Site Evaluator will need to do soils analysis at your site and design your system.

Fee Schedule:

For systems larger than a clothes washer system, Environmental Health charges both a Site Evaluation Report Review Fee and Permit Fee.

Regulations:

Graywater regulations are located in Chapter 16A of the CA Plumbing Code.

Not on the Web?

We can mail you information or you can come into the office to pick it up. Call us at (707) 463-4466 for details. Our office is located at 501 Low Gap Rd., Room 1326 Ukiah, CA 95482

Example of clothes washing machine valve which is required to switch between your new graywater system and your sewer / septic



You can distribute graywater in mulch beds or drip systems (required to be at least two inches below surface)



Example of valve that allows user to switch between irrigation zones



1 Introduction

Recent changes to Chapter 16A of the California Plumbing Code have created new ways for you to use your graywater. Mendocino County Environmental Health has created this brochure to introduce you to the code changes and our permit process. It also describes when a permit is not required and is a great resource for detailed guidance documents.

Do you REALLY know what graywater is? Graywater is:

- Water from your clothes washer (unless it's used to wash baby diapers)
- Water from your bathroom sink and shower / tub

Graywater is not:

- Water from your toilet
- Water from your dishwasher or kitchen sink

It is important to note that although graywater is not as dangerous as black water, it still contains many bacteria and viruses. Because of this, graywater is only allowed to be captured and used in specific ways. Also, a septic system or sewer connection is still required. Please note that the use of a graywater system does not affect sizing criteria for septic systems. See Section 3 of this brochure for our website as well as other important resources.

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