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## **Grey Water Systems**

Basic Grey Water systems can help with basic irrigation of residential landscaping. Here is some information on the installation and upkeep of a residential system.

### **The code describes three types of systems:**

- **Clothes Washer System.** A graywater system utilizing only single domestic clothes washing machine in a one- or two-family dwelling. This method cannot use a secondary pump and relies either on the washing machine pump or gravity to irrigate the garden areas. The amount of water from the washing machine is considered to be 15 gallons per person per day, e.g. 60 gallons per day for a 4 person household.

A construction permit is not required for the Clothes Washer System A construction permit shall not be required for a clothes washer system which does not require cutting of the existing plumbing piping provided it is in compliance with California Plumbing Code Section 1503.0.

- **Simple System.** A graywater system serving a one- or two-family dwelling with a discharge of 250 gallons (947 L) per day or less. Simple systems exceed a clothes washer system. A construction permit is required for a simple system.
- **Complex System.** Graywater systems that discharge over 250 gallons (947L) per day. A construction permit is required for a complex system.

### **Construction Permits**

- **1503.0, Permit.** A written construction permit shall be obtained from the Town of Windsor prior to the erection, construction, reconstruction, installation, relocation, or alteration of any graywater system that requires a permit. No construction permit for any graywater system shall be issued until a plot plan with appropriate data satisfactory to the Enforcing Agency has been submitted and approved. When there is insufficient lot area or inappropriate soil conditions to prevent the ponding or runoff of the graywater, as determined by the Enforcing Agency, no graywater system shall be allowed.
- **1604A.0 Drawings and Specifications.** Graywater systems for which a construction permit is required may be subject to submittal of plans and details of the proposed graywater system necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of this chapter. Identification of the groundwater level and soil absorption qualities at the site shall be included in the plans or provided to the Enforcing Agency.

The system **must:**

- have an easy way to direct flow back to the sewer/septic (like a 3-way valve). The valve must be labeled.
- send the water to irrigate landscape plantings
- keep the water on the same property it is produced and follow set-backs listed in the code
- have a maintenance manual
- discharge greywater under a 2" cover of mulch, plastic shield, or stones.

The system **must not:**

- contain diaper water
- contain hazardous chemicals (such as from a home photo lab)
- have pooling greywater or runoff
- make greywater accessible to people or pets (such as in an open tub)
- include a pump (except the washing machine's internal pump)
- connect to the potable water supply
  - affect other parts of the building, such as the electrical or structural components.

Here are some links to a more Grey Water system with more details and information.

[The Complete Beginner's Guide to Greywater Systems \(elemental.green\)](http://elemental.green)

<http://oasisdesign.net/greywater/laundry/>

<https://greencoast.org/what-is-greywater/>

Please contact [building@townofwindsor.com](mailto:building@townofwindsor.com) for more information.

### Simple Grey Water System

