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DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



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Environmental Health Division

Graywater Systems

Graywater is defined as untreated wastewater that has not been contaminated by any toilet discharge, has not been affected by infectious contaminated or unhealthy bodily wastes, and does not present a threat from contamination by unhealthful processing, manufacturing, or operating wastes. Graywater includes waste water from bathtubs, showers, bathroom washbasins, clothes washing machines, laundry tubs, but does not include wastewater from kitchen sinks, or dishwashers.

California graywater systems are separated into three categories, each with different permitting requirements:

- 1. Single Fixture or Clothes Washer**—*No permit required if no cutting of existing plumbing*
- 2. Simple System**—Discharge capacity is 250 gallons per day or less
- 3. Complex System**—From multifamily or multi-dwelling unit with discharge capacity greater than 250 gallons per day

Requirements for Construction Permits:

- ❖ Applies to all Simple and Complex Systems within the unincorporated portions of the Solano County. For residents within city limits contact the applicable City Building Department.
- ❖ Design shall be based on the location, discharge capacity, soil type, and groundwater level
- ❖ The discharge area must be on the same parcel as the source, unless lawfully exempt.
- ❖ No construction shall occur until plan is approved by Building and Environmental Health Divisions.
- ❖ All applications shall include plot plan of the site including existing grading, existing equipment, areas of landscaping, septic system including disposal field and reserve area, existing water supply (well) including water lines.
- ❖ Application shall include diagram of location of proposed graywater systems including tanks, and disposal areas
- ❖ Equipment list including cut sheets all equipment and specifications for installation
- ❖ Cross -Connection Devices (for systems with pumps/ pressurized)
- ❖ Internal backflow devices
- ❖ All components must be water tight

- ❖ Label graywater distribution piping up stream of connection to an irrigation or disposal field as CAUTION: NON POTABLE WATER DO NOT DRINK. These marking shall be at intervals not to exceed five feet.
- ❖ Preparing and maintaining an Operation and Maintenance Manual for life of the graywater system that is transferred with change in occupancy to the new owner/tenant.
- ❖ Must be inspected by Building and/or Environmental Health Division. See Environmental Health Division Graywater Fee listed on the current Fee Schedule.

Prohibitions:

All graywater systems are subject to the following prohibitions:

- No connection to a potable water system
- No diaper wash water or contact with any fecal material
- The discharge point must be covered by 2 inches of material such as mulch, rock, soil) or solid shield covers.
- No use of graywater for spray irrigation
- No run off from desired discharge location
- No discharge to storm sewer
- No discharge to surface body of water
- No ponding of graywater
- No use of graywater for irrigation of root crops or edible portions of plants touching soil.
- Minimize contact with humans and pets
- No discharge of hazardous materials including but not limited to, oily rags, wastewater from home photo developing, cleaning of car parts, soiled or infectious garments, woodworking, or home occupational activities