



## Laundry to Landscape System Fact Sheet

### What is graywater?

Graywater, or greywater, is lightly used household water from clothes washing machines, showers, bathroom tubs, and bathroom sinks. It does not include waste water from toilets, kitchen sinks, dishwashers, or laundry water with soiled diapers.

### How is graywater used?

Graywater can be used to water landscapes, especially ornamental and larger plants, such as trees, bushes, and shrubs. Graywater can also be used to water edible gardens, but it is important to ensure that the graywater does not come into contact with edible portions of the plants. To water plants, graywater can be released into a mulch basin or into a drip irrigation system. Graywater can be discharged at the subsurface or above ground as long as at least two inches of mulch, rock, or soil covers the release point of the graywater. This minimizes the possibility of human contact because graywater is unsafe for drinking purposes.

### Why use graywater?

Using graywater can help conserve precious drinking water supplies, decrease water and wastewater utility bills, and reduce the burden on wastewater treatment facilities. Please note that the water saving benefits of using graywater will depend on your landscape's needs, your water usage, and your graywater system.

### Is it safe to use graywater?

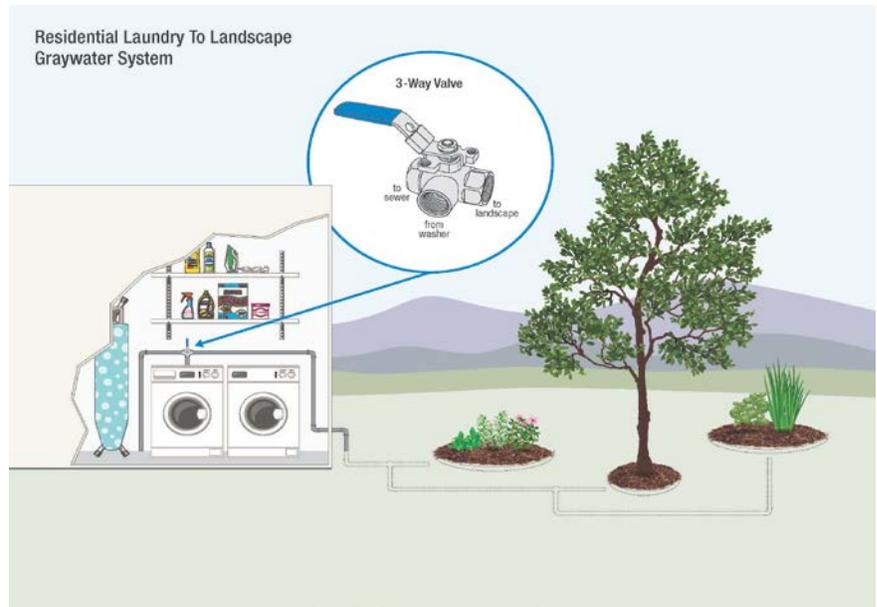
Yes! Graywater is safe to use if you follow procedures and guidelines for constructing, maintaining, and using your graywater system. A safe graywater system is designed to minimize contact with humans and pets. Additionally, the system should use "plant friendly" soap products in order to protect your plants and soil. Learn about about what types of soap products to use at [The Greywater Project](#) website.

### What is a laundry to landscape system?

The California Plumbing Code (or Code) specifies various systems of graywater. A graywater clothes washer system, also known as a laundry to landscape system, which meets the Code utilizes water from a single domestic clothes washing machine to irrigate landscape. In order to do so, a three-way diverter valve is connected to the drainage hose of a washing machine so that graywater can be discharged into a desired landscape area. A laundry to landscape system does not require a permit and can be self-installed or installed by a professional.

## Is a permit required?

A laundry to landscape graywater system does not require a permit if built according to Code. However, any graywater systems that are more complex than a laundry to landscape system will need a city or county permit and may require additional review by the Alameda County Water District (ACWD). *Please check with your city's Building Department for more information about permitted graywater systems.*



- **Fremont, Building & Safety Department**  
(510) 494-4460
- **Union City, Building Division**  
(510) 675-5313
- **Newark, Building Inspection Division**  
(510) 578-4261

## Does ACWD offer a rebate for a laundry to landscape system?

ACWD's Water Efficiency Master Plan recommended the development of a laundry to landscape system incentive measure and ACWD is currently working to develop a program to offer this to customers. The program must take into consideration maintaining the integrity of our Niles Cone Groundwater Basin. Stay tuned for more information.

## Where can I find more information on graywater?

Resource	Description	Link
<b>California Plumbing Code</b>	State of California's set of standards for graywater systems	<a href="https://epubs.iapmo.org/2019/CPC/#p=356">https://epubs.iapmo.org/2019/CPC/#p=356</a>
<b>Santa Clara Valley Water District</b>	Various general resources about graywater	<a href="https://www.valleywater.org/saving-water/landscaping/graywater-rebate-program/graywater-resources#FAQs">https://www.valleywater.org/saving-water/landscaping/graywater-rebate-program/graywater-resources#FAQs</a>
<b>San Francisco Public Utilities Commission</b>	Graywater Design Manual for outdoor irrigation	<a href="https://sfpub.org/sites/default/files/learning/conservation/Graywater-DesignManual_NOV2017.pdf">https://sfpub.org/sites/default/files/learning/conservation/Graywater-DesignManual_NOV2017.pdf</a>
<b>Greywater Action</b>	Presentation, videos, and webinars about graywater systems	<a href="https://greywateraction.org/greywater-resources/">https://greywateraction.org/greywater-resources/</a>
<b>Ecology Center</b>	Various general resources about graywater systems	<a href="https://ecologycenter.org/ecoouse/greywater/">https://ecologycenter.org/ecoouse/greywater/</a>
<b>The Greywater Project</b>	Non-profit that promotes the safe reuse of greywater	<a href="https://www.thegreywaterproject.org/">https://www.thegreywaterproject.org/</a>