



# Greywater Recycling

## Water Program

Greywater is wastewater from washing machines, laundry tubs, showers, hand basins and baths, where a greywater diversion device, greywater treatment system or manual bucketing is used.



Greywater from residential premises is a resource that can be reused on-site for garden and lawn irrigation or, if treated, for toilet flushing and laundry use (washing machine only). Substituting greywater for these uses reduces demand on drinking water supplies and decreases wastewater discharged to the environment.

**Kitchen wastewater** is heavily polluted with food particles, cooking oils, grease and other chemicals. Kitchen wastewater can only be utilised where an approved wastewater treatment system has been installed.

*The Code of Practice for the Reuse of Greywater in Western Australia 2010* can be found on the Government of Western Australia Department of Health website: [https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A\\_E/Approved-greywater-systems](https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Approved-greywater-systems)

### Advantages of using greywater

- Reduced water bills.
- Reduced demand on scheme water.
- Supplementary garden water supply through drought and water restrictions.
- Reducing the amount of wastewater discharged to the ocean or rivers.

### How to reduce risks associated with greywater

- Untreated greywater can only be used via subsurface irrigation.
- Make sure your system is council approved and installed by a licenced plumber.
- Use only low risk sources e.g. shower, bath and laundry water.
- Do not use greywater on fruit and vegetables.
- Do not use greywater if any family member is ill.
- Do not allow your pets to drink greywater.
- Keep children away from areas that have been recently irrigated.
- Greywater must be contained within the confines of the premises on which it is generated.
- Washing powders that contain sodium salts should be avoided.
- Avoid the use of bleaches or softeners.

**Council approval is required before installing a treated or untreated greywater system. Please contact your local council before installation.**

### Small changes you can make at home

#### Capture Warm-up Water

Warm-up water is the water that disappears down the drain while waiting for the hot water to reach the tap or shower.

To capture and use warm-up water, place a bucket or large bowl under the tap when you turn on the hot water, move it out of the way when the water is hot. This water can be used to directly water lawn or plants, as it's just as clean as tap water.



For further information, please contact your local council, or head to the Government of Western Australia Department of Water and Environment Regulation website:

<http://www.water.wa.gov.au/urban-water/water-recycling-efficiencies/waterwise-community-toolkit/greywater>