



Graywater Recycling

Save Money, Water &
the Environment



Graywater Advice and Tips

Delivery of graywater

Do not disperse graywater on top of the ground – rather, deliver it underground to minimize the risk of people being exposed to potentially harmful agents or pathogens (sprinklers can lead to droplets that contain microorganisms to be suspended in the air).

Storage of graywater

Avoid storing graywater for more than 24 hours as bacteria counts rise to unsafe levels, not to mention the accompanying bad smelling odor. Instead, opt for systems which send graywater straight to the soil, with a diverter to send graywater to the sewer when necessary.

Systems with pumps and filters

These systems are more difficult to maintain. Many people find filters laborious and unpleasant to clean. Pumps will break without proper filtration and they also consume a great deal of electricity. If possible, take advantage of gravity and use a system which does not need a pump.

Distribution of graywater through perforated pipes

AVOID using perforated pipes for graywater distribution because they will clog from water sediments and garden roots. Furthermore, they can lead to uneven irrigation. A gravel bed system or mulch pit is preferred.

Garden hose direct from the back of the washer

The hose can kink and the washing machine pump may burn out. Hot water may harm plants. Instead, install a laundry to landscape system. A free design for one is available on <http://www.oasisdesign.net>

Other Resources

Oasis Design has an extensive Common Grey Water Errors and Preferred Practices at <http://www.oasisdesign.net/greywater/misinfo/index.htm>

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