

RECYCLING GREYWATER FACT SHEET

Introduction

Greywater from residential premises (single households) is a resource and can be reused on-site for garden and lawn irrigation or, if treated appropriately, for toilet flushing and laundry use (washing machine only). Reusing greywater will not only reduce the demand on drinking water supplies, but will also reduce the amount of wastewater discharged to the environment.

What is Greywater?

Greywater is wastewater generated by the shower, bath, hand-basin, and laundry but does not include “blackwater” which is generated by the toilet.

What type of system should be used?

There are three ways of reusing greywater that can be implemented for sewerred residential premises in NSW:

1. greywater diversion, which diverts greywater to the garden or lawn for use in sub-surface irrigation;
2. greywater treatment, which treats greywater for other reuse, such as toilet flushing, washing machine and surface irrigation; and
3. manual bucketing and direct disposal

1. Greywater diversion system

There are two types of greywater diversion systems:

Gravity diversion device

A gravity diversion device incorporates a hand activated valve, switch or tap and is fitted to the outlet of the waste pipe of the plumbing fixture such as a laundry tub. Greywater is diverted directly to a sub-surface irrigation system in the garden.

Pump diversion device

A pump diversion device incorporates an automatically releasing surge tank to cope with sudden influxes of greywater for distribution directly to a sub-surface irrigation system in the garden. The surge tank does not operate as a storage tank.

Do I need approval to install a Greywater Diversion System?

You do not need an approval from Council when the following outcomes are met:

- It is installed by a Licenced Plumber
- Greywater is directed from the laundry or bathroom (not toilet) only to the garden for immediate use without making changes to its quality (**greywater must not be stored**).
- Greywater must be distributed by sub-surface irrigation (at least 10 cm below the finished surface level of soil or mulch). Surface irrigation will trigger an approval requirement
- The device must be a WaterMark licensed product; and
- The system is installed in accordance with Plumbing Code of Australia;
- The land must not have an existing on site sewage management facility.
- The following performance standards are achieved:
 - the prevention of the spread of disease by micro-organisms,
 - the prevention of the spread of foul odours,
 - the prevention of contamination of water,
 - the prevention of degradation of soil and vegetation,
 - the discouragement of insects and vermin,

- Ensure that persons do not come into contact with untreated sewage or effluent
- Minimisation of any impacts on the amenity of the premises and surrounding lands.

The **Greywater System Self Assessment Checklist** (attached) will help determine if your system is permitted without Council approval.

Any diversion system that does not meet the above requirements will require approval from Council.

2. Greywater treatment system

For all greywater treatment systems the owner of the premises must obtain prior approval from Council for installation.

There are no exemptions. A council must not approve the installation of a treatment system unless the system is accredited by NSW Health.

A register of accredited treatment systems is available on the following NSW Health website.
www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/domesticwastewater

It is the responsibility of the land owner to engage a licensed plumber to install the treatment system and to make any associated plumbing modifications (e.g. pipe for toilet flushing).

It is the responsibility of the installing licensed plumber to install the treatment system to meet the requirements of the NSW Plumbing and Drainage Act and Regulations.

Once installed, treatment systems require regular inspections by a qualified person.

3. Manual bucketing and direct disposal

Manual bucketing and direct disposal of greywater (e.g. collecting shower and laundry water for reuse), to be reused on gardens and lawns does not require prior approval from Council.

Documentation and Plans

Where a Section 68 Application is required, for either a non-exempt diversion system or a treatment system the following documents must be submitted:

- Site Plan (including location of irrigation lines);
- Device details and specifications; and
- Plumber Accreditation & Licence

Note: A site suitability assessment prepared by a qualified person may be required following an initial assessment by Council staff.

Applicable Fees

Where a Section 68 application is required, Council's adopted Fees and Charges will apply.

Need help?

Phone: (02) 6767 5555

Email:

development@tamworth.nsw.gov.au

Or call into the Development Hub counter at the Council Chambers in Peel Street, Tamworth, 8.30am and 5.00pm weekdays.

Further Information

For further information go to the *NSW Guidelines for greywater reuse in sewerred, single household residential premises* at www.water.nsw.gov.au

Greywater Diversion - Self Assessment Checklist

Under Clause 75A(2) of the Local Government Regulation 2005 (domestic greywater diversion may be carried out without the prior approval of the council)

Property Owner/s Name: _____

Property address: _____
(Where system to be installed)

Licensed Plumber's Name: _____

Licence number: _____

Type of Diversion System: _____
(Must be a licenced WaterMark device)

I, being the Plumber of the installation of a domestic greywater diversion system at the above address confirm that the following performance criteria under Clause 75A(2) of the Local Government Regulation 2005 has been met for the installation of the above greywater diversion system without approval:-

(please tick)

- The system is installed in accordance with Plumbing Code of Australia;
- The land must not have an existing on-site sewage management facility.
- The following performance standards are achieved:
 - (i) the prevention of the spread of disease by micro-organisms,
 - (ii) the prevention of the spread of foul odours,
 - (iii) the prevention of contamination of water,
 - (iv) the prevention of degradation of soil and vegetation,
 - (v) the discouragement of insects and vermin,
- Ensure that persons do not come into contact with untreated sewage or effluent
- Minimisation of any impacts on the amenity of the premises and surrounding lands.

Greywater must be distributed by sub-surface irrigation (at least 10 cm below the finished surface level of soil or mulch). Surface irrigation will trigger an approval requirement.

Please return this self assessment checklist, along with a copy of the Certificate of Compliance issued by the licensed plumber to Tamworth Regional Council. This can be done by email to development@tamworth.nsw.gov.au or hand delivered to any of Council's offices.

Checklist completed by: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____