

# GRAYWATER



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

FACT SHEET

Did you know that a standard home generates approximately 160 gallons of graywater per day, or nearly 60,000 gallons per year? A family of four could reuse 22,000 gallons a year by tapping the rinse water from its washing machine. Using graywater is an excellent way to recycle and conserve water, save money, and help you reduce potable water consumption. Your indoor water can provide a constant source of recycled water for irrigating landscape.

## What is Graywater?

Graywater is untreated wastewater which has not come into contact with toilet and kitchen waste. It is water from showers and baths, bathroom sinks and washing machines that can be directly reused for irrigation without undergoing a treatment process.

Graywater does NOT include water from toilets, kitchen sinks, dishwashers or laundry water from soiled diapers, due to potential health issues. Also, be aware that some soaps and detergents can contain chemicals that may be harmful to your landscape when using graywater for irrigation.

## How do I put a Graywater System in my home?

In 2013, the City streamlined its permitting process for graywater systems installation in an effort to encourage homeowners to conserve water and save money. The steps you need to take depend largely on what type of system you plan to install. Some systems do not require permits. Chapter 16A of the California Plumbing Code details system requirements, and plumbers and other professionals are available for the design and installation process if you feel you need help.

- **No-Permit System:** A clothes washer graywater system that utilize only a single domestic clothes washing machine in a one or two family dwelling do not need a permit.

**Permit Systems**—Permitting is required for graywater systems that take discharge water from other plumbing fixtures in a residence, such as bathtubs and showers, and require more extensive in-house plumbing, electrical or mechanical modifications, or the use of a pump. Per the California Plumbing Code, a construction permit must be obtained from the City of San Diego Development Services Department prior to the erection, construction, reconstruction, installation, relocation or alteration of any graywater system that is not exempt from a permit.

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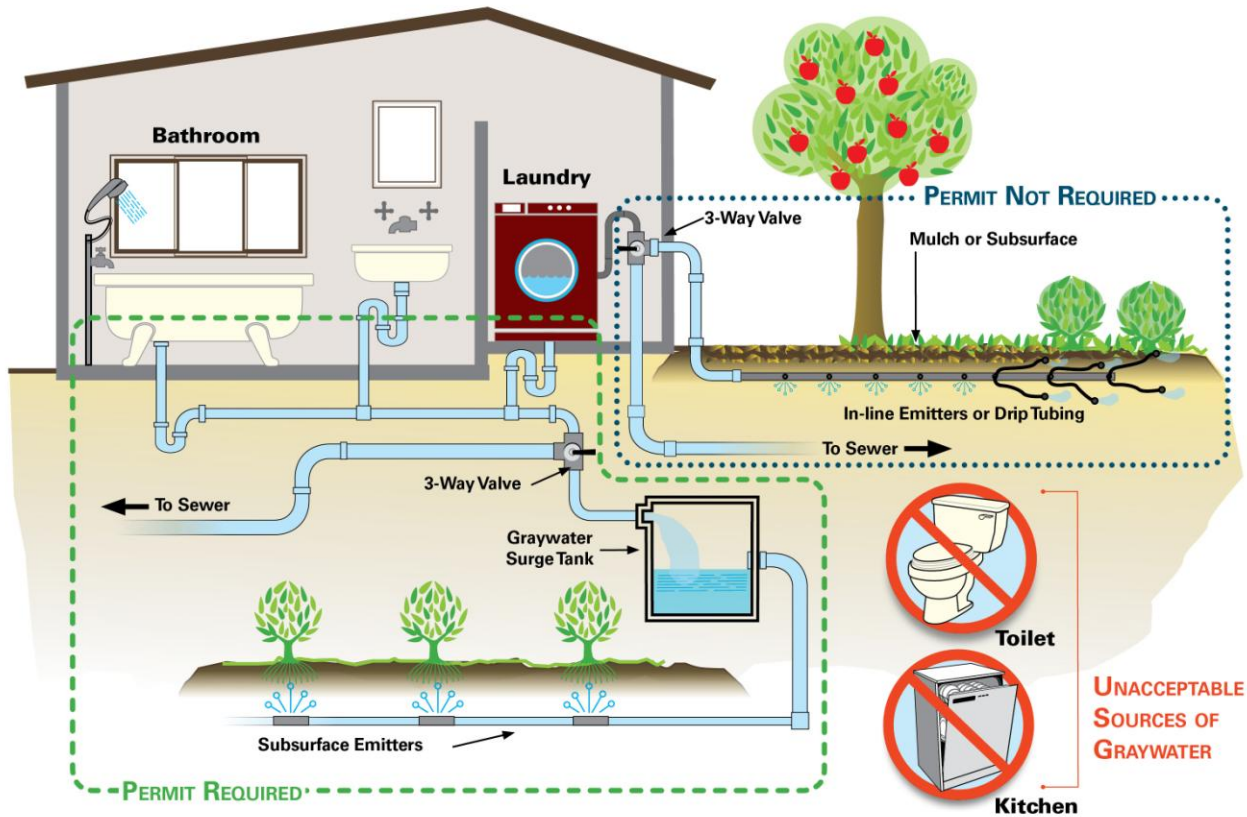
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## SAMPLE RESIDENTIAL GRAYWATER SYSTEMS



### Links to Additional Graywater Systems

- [City of San Diego Development Services Department](#)
- [City of San Diego Water Department](#)
- [County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health](#)
- [San Diego County Water Authority's "E-Guide to a WaterSmart Lifestyle"](#)
- [California Urban Water Conservation Council](#)
- [San Diego Sustainable Living Institute](#)
- [California Department of Housing and Community Development, Emergency Rulemaking](#)

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