



# Permit Exempt Clothes Washer Graywater System Guidelines

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## What is Graywater?

Graywater is water from washing machines, showers, bathtubs and bathroom sinks. Water from toilets, kitchen sinks, or wash water from diapers **is not** considered graywater in California.

## Benefits of Graywater Reuse

- Decreases potable water use by 16 to 40 percent depending on the house/site (Cohen 2009)
- Decreases water and wastewater utility bills
- Protects our natural resources
- Reduces the energy and chemicals needed to treat wastewater
- Encourages the use of non toxic products
- Provides drought insurance for your landscape



### When a Permit is Not Required

All of the following must be met:

- Graywater comes from the clothes washing machine only.
- Graywater system does not alter the household plumbing.
- Graywater system is for a one or two-unit residential building.
- Graywater system follows 12 Guidelines set forth in the California Plumbing Code. (see reverse side)

### When a Permit Is Required

- If the Graywater system collects water from showers, sinks, or baths.
- If the Graywater system alters the plumbing (you cut into the drainage plumbing to access the graywater).
- Graywater system is installed in a building that is not a one or two-unit residential building.
- The Graywater system includes a pump or a tank.
- These types of graywater systems require plans and permits consistent with Chapter 16 of the 2013 CPC.



