

FACT SHEET

GREYWATER USE

South East Queensland is experiencing the worst drought on record and our dams are at historic lows. The Queensland Water Commission is asking everyone to continue to play their part in reducing water consumption, and one of the ways you can do this is through the use of greywater.

Greywater is made up of the wastewater from our showers, baths, hand basins, laundry tubs, washing machines, dishwashers and kitchen sinks. (It does not include water from toilets.) Used appropriately, greywater can keep gardens thriving throughout the drought. A four person house can generate between 100 and 425 litres of greywater for garden use per day. A two person house can generate between 60 and 225 litres of greywater per day.

How can I use greywater in my garden?

The Queensland Government introduced new laws in March 2006 to broaden the use of greywater. The following is a summary of legislation in the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002 (reprinted 10 August 2006) governing its use:

- **Single-dwelling residential properties (without council approval)**
Anybody is allowed to manually bucket greywater from the laundry and bathroom, or to connect a flexible hose to divert it from the washing machine for use in the garden.
- **Multi-dwelling residential properties (without council approval)**
The use of greywater in multi-dwelling properties is limited because of health and environmental concerns. The law permits manual bucketing of greywater in all multi-dwelling residential properties, and permits use of a flexible hose attached to the washing machine in town houses where there is an attached lawn or garden.
- **Single-dwelling residential properties (with council approval)**
Council approval is required to change the plumbing to install systems that allow the use of more greywater such as diversion devices and treatment systems. Such systems must be installed by a plumber licensed in Queensland and must meet Australian standards.

More information

Appropriate use of grey water:
www.nrw.qld.gov.au/factsheets/pdf/water/w55.pdf

Grey water regulation:
www.dlgpsr.qld.gov.au

Rebates for greywater systems:
www.nrw.qld.gov.au/water/saverscheme/index.html

Want to know more?

www.water.qld.gov.au
www.lgp.qld.gov.au/?id=4174
www.qwc.qld.gov.au or call 1300 789 906