

Greywater do's and don'ts

Untreated greywater

Do...

- Only use laundry rinse, bath and shower water
 - ↳ *These are the cleanest sources of greywater*
- Check your plant health regularly
 - ↳ *Consider changing your plants to greywater-tolerant species. Ask your nursery for advice.*
- Reduce fertiliser use
 - ↳ *Greywater often has increased levels of plant nutrients phosphorus and nitrogen.*
- Wash your hands after contact with greywater
 - ↳ *Greywater often has increased levels of microorganisms*
- Choose a lower sodium, lower phosphorus detergent
 - ↳ *These chemicals can harm plants and soils*
- Spread greywater over the largest possible area
 - ↳ *This will minimise the impact of chemicals on plants and soil*

Manual bucketing or hose

- Test greywater on a small area first
- Rotate areas of greywater use

Diversion systems

- Check your local council and state government regulations and whether approval is required
- Count the cost of installation and maintenance
- Have the diversion device installed by a licensed plumber
- Install a sub-surface irrigation system, making sure greywater is at least 1 m away from boundary lines, inground pools, drinking water tanks and buildings
- Label all greywater pipes and outlets
- Turn off diverters during rain
- Regularly maintain your diversion system

Don't...

- Allow greywater to run off your property
 - ↳ *Greywater could pollute the broader environment*
- Use greywater if you live in an environmentally sensitive area or on a drinking water aquifer
 - ↳ *Greywater could harm the environment or pollute the aquifer*
- Add household or garden chemicals to greywater
 - ↳ *These increase the chemical load of greywater*
- Use greywater from washing nappies, sick room items, or painting and cleaning rags
 - ↳ *This greywater will contain high levels of microorganisms or chemicals*
- Touch, drink or allow pets to ingest greywater
 - ↳ *Greywater poses health risks due to its increased levels of microorganisms*
- Store greywater for more than a few hours
 - ↳ *Microorganisms can proliferate, causing odours and possible health risk*
- Use greywater to water fruit trees or herbs
 - ↳ *This can lead to ingestion of microorganisms*
- Overwater your garden
 - ↳ *This can lead to pooling, causing odours, possible health risk, and run-off*
- Use for spray irrigation
 - ↳ *This increases the chance of ingestion*
- Use greywater if a member of the household is immunocompromised
 - ↳ *They will be more susceptible to infection from the greywater microorganisms*
- Use on paths, driveways or cars, to top up rainwater tanks or swimming pools
 - ↳ *The level of human contact is too high and poses too great a health risk*

Treated greywater

Do...

- Check with your local council and state government what level of treatment is required for the way in which you want to reuse your treated greywater
- Many of the above guidelines for untreated greywater apply

Don't...

- The above guidelines for untreated greywater apply, except that some additional uses (e.g. spray irrigation, toilet flushing, washing machine, washing of paths, driveways and cars) may be permissible
- Use the treated greywater for purposes other than those approved by your local or state authority