

Clothes Washer Graywater System Checklist

Graywater: Untreated wastewater that has not been contaminated by any toilet discharge, has not been affected by infectious or unhealthy bodily wastes, and does not present a threat from contamination by unhealthful processing, manufacturing, or operating wastes. "Graywater" includes, but is not limited to, wastewater from bathtubs, showers, bathroom washbasins, clothes washing machines, and laundry tubs. Graywater does not include wastewater from kitchen sinks or dishwashers (Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 17922.12).

The City of Benicia is now offering a **Graywater System Rebate**. For the purpose of this program, there is one type of graywater system that is eligible for the rebate: a Clothes Washer System, also commonly referred to as a "Laundry to Landscape" system. Other systems, known as the Simple System and Complex System, are **not** eligible for rebate funds. For more information regarding graywater Clothes Washer System rebates, call Alex Porteshawver at (707) 746-4276 or visit our website at www.SustainableBenicia.org or BeniciaSavesWater.org.

A **Clothes Washer System** is a system that delivers water from the washing machine to the landscape, and does not require a building permit. The system does not include a potable water connection or a pump. (Note: The pump in a clothes washer is not considered part of the graywater system).

To qualify for the City of Benicia Clothes Washer System Graywater Rebate, all of the following conditions must be met:

- The system directs graywater to a landscaped area that does **not** have edible plants that have fruits that touch the ground, and is:
 - 1) 18" from the property line,
 - 2) 2' from buildings,
 - 3) 100' from wells, waterways, or other water sources, and
 - 4) 5' from any septic tank.
- No overhead (spray) irrigation is connected to the graywater system.
- Graywater will be contained on the site where it is generated. Ponding or runoff is prohibited and may be considered a nuisance.
- Wastewater derived from activities such as cleaning car parts, washing greasy or oily rags, disposal of waste solutions from home photo labs or other activities that contain hazardous chemicals shall not enter the graywater system.
- The system design shall allow the user to direct the flow of graywater to the irrigation system/landscaped area or the sanitary sewer/septic system. The direction control of the graywater shall be clearly labeled and readily accessible to the user.
- The system shall be maintained to prevent clogging, by making use of the cleanout disconnect tool included in the incentive kit.

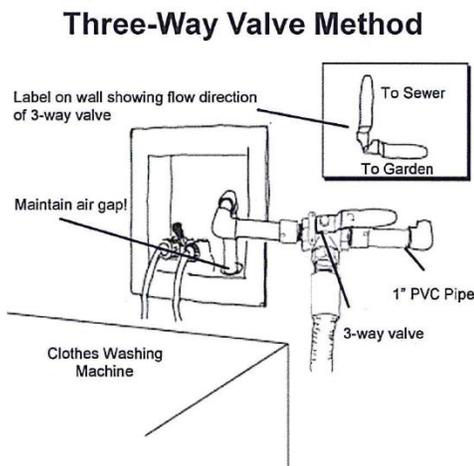
- There is at least three (3) inches of mulch, rock, or soil, or appropriate permeable cover where graywater is released.
- Graywater is NOT rainwater and cannot be stored. Graywater must be used the same day it is produced.
- The flow direction (whether to the sewer or yard) must be clearly labeled. Once outside the building, the discharge must drain directly to the disposal field by hose or pipe. Piping at five foot increments and at hose connection point is to be clearly labeled: “CAUTION: Non-potable water, DO NOT DRINK.”
- The system has been designed and installed to prevent contact with humans and pets.
- Water used to wash diapers or similarly soiled garments will not be used for irrigation; it will be diverted to the sanitary sewer or septic system using the installed valve.
- An operation and maintenance manual has been created. The manual is to remain with the building throughout the life of the system and indicate that upon change of ownership or occupancy, the new owner or occupant shall be notified the structure contains a graywater system.
- After installation, plant friendly detergents that do not contain salt, salt compounds, or boron should be used.

Remember, proper system design, installation, maintenance, and use are the responsibility of the property owner, not the City of Benicia! The City is not liable for any damages or injury caused by the use or misuse of the graywater system.

PLEASE NOTE, THIS CHECKLIST IS ONLY TO BE USED TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE FOR A CLOTHES WASHER GRAYWATER SYSTEM. OTHER TYPES OF GRAYWATER SYSTEMS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A REBATE AND REQUIRE A BUILDING PERMIT PRIOR TO INSTALLATION.

For more information on building permits and regulatory compliance, contact Community Development, Building Division, at (707) 746-4230.

Diagrams and Supplemental Images



(Right) This diagram displays how a three way valve system is set up to send water to the landscape or to the sewer, depending on use and need. **(Left)** A simple laundry to landscape graywater system laid out in the same fashion that it is put together.