

GREYWATER DO'S ✓

- ✓ Only use wastewater from baths, showers, hand basins and washing machines (preferably final rinse water).
- ✓ Only use greywater on the garden and alternate which areas you water.
- ✓ Only apply enough water that the soil can absorb, the larger the area the water is spread over the better. This dilutes any nutrients & salts in the water.
- ✓ Wash your hands if they come into contact with greywater.
- ✓ Turn off your diverter if you use harsh cleaners like bleach or high phosphate or salt cleaners etc.
- ✓ Stop using greywater during wet periods (continuous raining days & winter).
- ✓ Stop using greywater immediately if odours are generated and plants do not appear to be healthy.

GREYWATER DON'TS ✗

- ✗ Don't water foods (garden vegetables etc.) that are to be eaten raw.
- ✗ Don't use greywater that has faecal contamination i.e. waste water used to launder nappies.
- ✗ Don't use kitchen wastewater (including dishwashers) due to the high concentration of food wastes and chemicals that are not readily broken down by soil organisms.
- ✗ Don't store greywater at all (must use immediately), as it will become septic.
- ✗ Don't let children or pets play or drink the greywater
- ✗ Don't allow greywater flow from your property OR enter stormwater systems.
- ✗ Don't use harmful detergents and cleaners (i.e. bleach), use low salt, low phosphorus and biodegradable cleaners.

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HOW CAN I SAVE WATER?

- WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?
- WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?



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The City of Wodonga is experiencing increasing pressure on its water supply due to diminishing water sources. More people are looking at alternative water sources such as the reuse of household water (greywater).

The reuse of greywater during times of drought is a viable option. However, not all greywater can be reused.

You should not use kitchen water due to the fact it is often contaminated with fats and solids which can damage soils and plants. In addition, it can potentially cause a nuisance through odours from pathogenic food scraps.

This pamphlet will inform residents of appropriate ways to re-use greywater.



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WAYS TO REDUCE WATER IN THE HOME

- 1. Install a rainwater tank and connect it to your toilet, laundry and garden hose.**
You may qualify for a Water Smart Gardens and Homes Rebate on the purchase costs.
- 2. Install a water-efficient showerhead.**
Save up to 20,000 ltr of shower water a year.
- 3. Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth and shaving.**
Save 4,000 ltr of water a year (if you brush for three minutes). Use a glass of water to rinse your mouth. Also turn off the tap while shaving and save up to 3,500 ltr per year.
- 4. Install a dual-flush toilet.**
Save more than 35,000 ltr a year. Depending on your toilet, a cheaper option is to place a brick or filled water bottle in the toilet cistern to use less water.
- 5. If you're buying a new washing machine, make sure it has at least a four-star water efficiency rating.**
Front-loading washing machines are the most water efficient, using up to 50% less water. Remember... the more stars, the more water efficient.
- 6. Make sure each washing machine cycle is full and use an economy setting.**
Washing machines use about 120 ltr of water per load. Reduce the water level to suit the size of the load of washing.
- 7. Halve your shower.**
Halve your shower time and save 8% of your water (use a clock).

EFFECTIVE WAYS TO REUSE YOUR GREYWATER

TEMPORARY GREYWATER DIVERSION

Temporary greywater diversion is the redirection of untreated greywater from a domestic wastewater device to soil via a diverter hose. Temporary diversion does not require permission from Wodonga Council. However, the water must not escape from your property and the use of the greywater must not cause a nuisance. Untreated greywater must be used immediately on soil (garden and lawn areas) and NOT stored in any way. Only greywater from baths, showers, hand basins and washing machines may be diverted into the garden. Greywater must be appropriately treated if you wish to use it for toilet flushing or clothes washing (*Refer to Greywater Do's and Don'ts*).

PERMANENT GREYWATER REUSE

Permanent greywater reuse is when wastewater is treated, reused and retained on-site instead of wastewater being disposed to a sewer. Permanent diversion requires permission from the Wodonga Council's Health Department. This will involve soil tests, completion of an application form, payment of an associated fee and ongoing quarterly maintenance scheme for the life of the system which is undertaken by suitably qualified technicians. In addition, permanent diversion will require the installation of an EPA approved septic tank or greywater system. A list of EPA approved greywater systems is available from the website www.epa.vic.gov.au/water/wastewater/onsite.asp, then click on the approval type link. You must also contact North East Water, 1300 361 622, in regards to back flow requirements with permanent greywater systems.

If you are considering this option, then you should be aware that the process of a permanent diversion is a timely process that has several associated costs.

PROSPECTIVE COSTS ASSOCIATED

(Figures outlined are a rough estimate to be used as a guide only)

Greywater system	\$5,000
Installation	\$3,000
Application fee	\$275
Quarterly Service	\$90 (ongoing for the life of the system)
Soil tests	\$1,000
Total	\$9,365

RECLAIMED WATER

Reclaimed water is water that has been derived from sewerage systems or industry processes and treated to a standard that is appropriate for its intended use. Wodonga Council's Health Department does not control the use of reclaimed water and all enquiries should be directed to North East Water. Phone 1300 361 622.

GOVERNMENT REBATES

The Victorian Government offers rebates for consumers when they purchase specific water saving fixtures and devices. Information on rebates is available at the following website: www.ourwater.vic.gov.au/ourwater/index.html

SAVING WATER OUTDOORS

Outdoor water use accounts for approximately 20 per cent of household water use. Here are some actions you can take to use less water on your garden:

- **Water restrictions permitting; water your garden in the cool of the day** — early morning or after dusk. Up to 40 per cent of water will evaporate if you water your garden during the day.
- **Check the four-day forecast.** (Bureau of Meteorology – www.bom.gov.au) If there's rain ahead, let the rain do your watering for you.
- **Target the root zone** around the base of the plant, instead of the leaves. Water less frequently but more thoroughly.
- **Use a mulch or compost** to increase water absorption and the moisture content of the soil.
- **Look into installing a rainwater tank.** Tanks are available in various sizes and styles — and you may qualify for a Government rebate on the purchase costs.
- **Choose drought-tolerant plants for your garden.** They are an excellent way to save water as they are hardier and better suited to our dry environment.
- **Wash your car on the lawn.** And most importantly ensure you use a bucket or trigger nozzle on the hose, this will minimise water use and ensure what is used goes to your lawn.