



City of Atascadero Community Development Department

PUBLIC INFORMATION - BUILDING SERVICES

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GUIDELINES FOR PERMIT EXEMPT GRAYWATER SYSTEMS

All systems shall comply with Section 18941.7 & 17922.12 of the Health and Safety Code and Chapter 16A of the 2010 Edition of the California Plumbing Code or Appendix O of the 2010 California Residential Code.

A construction permit is not required for a graywater system supplied by a clothes washer only in compliance with the all of the following:

1. The design shall allow the user to direct the flow to the irrigation or disposal field or the building sewer. The direction control of the graywater shall be clearly labeled and readily accessible to the user.
2. The installation, change, alteration or repair of the system does not include a potable water connection or a pump and does not affect other building, plumbing, electrical or mechanical components including structural features, egress, fire life safety, sanitation, potable water supply or accessibility.
3. The graywater shall be contained on the site where it is generated.
4. Graywater shall be directed to and contained within an irrigation or disposal field meeting the following minimum setbacks:
 - Building structures (not including porches, breezeways, carports, etc.) – 2 ft.
 - Property lines – 1.5 ft.
 - Water wells – 100 ft.
 - Streams and lakes – 100 ft.
 - Leach fields – 4 ft.
 - Septic tanks – 5 ft.
 - Public water main – 10 ft.
5. Ponding or runoff is prohibited and shall be considered a nuisance.
6. Graywater may be released above the ground surface provided at least two (2) inches of mulch, rock, soil or a solid shield covers the release point.
7. Graywater systems shall be designed to minimize contact with humans and domestic pets.
8. Water used to wash diapers or similarly soiled or infectious garments shall not be used and shall be diverted to building sewer.
9. Graywater shall not contain hazardous chemicals derived from activities such as cleaning car parts, washing greasy rags, or disposing of waste solutions from home photo labs or similar hobbyist or home occupational activities.
10. Exception from a permit shall not be deemed to grant authorization for any greywater system to be installed in a manor that violates other provisions of the Plumbing or Municipal Codes.
11. An operation and maintenance manual shall be provided. Directions shall indicate 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 tenant shall be notified the structure contains a graywater system.

Systems that exceed a clothes washer system must obtain a permit prior to installation. Plans and submittal documents must comply with Chapter 16A of the 2010 Edition of the California Plumbing Code or Appendix O of the 2010 California Residential Code.

The following websites have additional information on graywater systems, graywater codes, and the effects of laundry detergents and equipment used in graywater systems:

<http://oasisdesign.net/>

<http://www.oasisdesign.net/greywater/laundry/index.php>

http://www.hcd.ca.gov/codes/shl/Preface_ET_Emergency_Graywater.pdf

http://www.owue.water.ca.gov/docs/graywater_guide_book.pdf

Sample "Laundry to Landscape" single fixture connection:

