

# WATER WALLY'S GREYWATER FACT SHEET



Greywater is the wastewater produced from laundry, bathroom and hand basin use. This water is a valuable resource which can be diverted and applied to the garden through appropriate diversion systems or it can be treated and reused for household uses such as toilet flushing and washing machine use.

Kitchen wastewater is typically excluded and is commonly known as 'dark greywater'. High levels of grease, oils and detergents generally found in kitchen wastewater can impact on soil and plant health and can also cause clogging of greywater system filters.

On average in Australia, we produce around 120L of useable greywater per person per day, so a family of four could expect to produce around 175,000L per year. Reusing greywater takes the pressure off precious scheme water resources and provides a valuable source of irrigation water that is independent of water restrictions.

## GREYWATER REGULATIONS

The requirements for approved greywater reuse vary from state to state, check with your local council or state health authority for advice on the regulations in your area. Approvals for the installation and operation of greywater systems are managed by local government and all plumbing work must be done by a licensed plumber.

To find out about greywater regulations in your state, head to the following websites:

Western Australia - Department of Health  
NSW - NSW Office of Water  
Queensland - Department of Housing and Public Works  
Tasmania - Department of Justice  
NT - Northern Territory Government  
SA - SA Health  
Victoria - Environment Protection Authority Victoria  
ACT - ACT Health

## IT'S NOT 'WASTE' WATER IF YOU DON'T WASTE IT!

BUILDING GREYWATER READY HOUSES IS A SIMPLE, INEXPENSIVE, SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVE. IT GIVES HOMES OWNERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACCESS A RESOURCE WHICH CAN HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON WORKING TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.



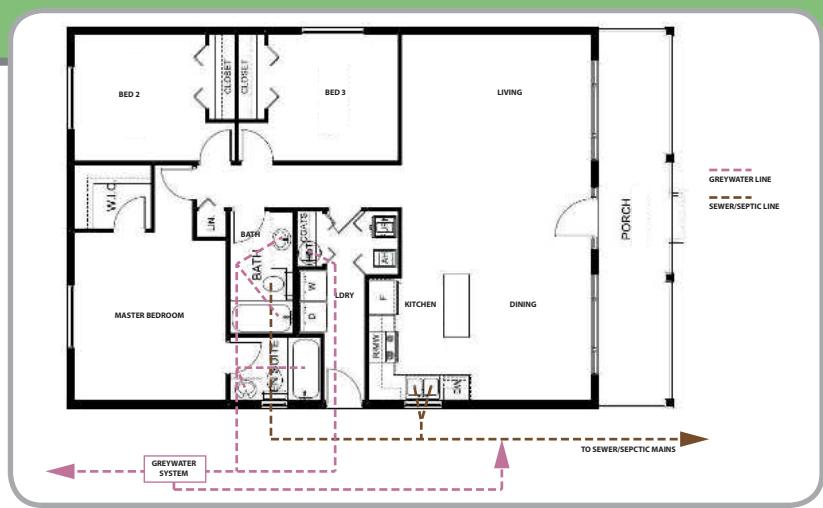
## GREYWATER READY PLUMBING

The term 'greywater ready' refers to the installation of separate sanitary plumbing that collects greywater from sources suitable for greywater reuse, separate from all the other wastewater sources.

Plumbing drainage can be configured to be 'greywater ready' for the installation of an approved greywater system at a later date. Unfortunately current standard plumbing methods make retrofitting greywater ready plumbing to an existing house very difficult and costly. If, however, a house is plumbed greywater ready as part of the initial drainage plumbing, this is a simple addition with minimal additional costs. Depending on house size and layout as well as the location and number of greywater sources, the additional cost on and above standard drainage works ranges between \$750 - \$1500.

No approval is required from Local Government for installing sanitary drainage plumbing that is greywater ready.

The illustration below shows a typical family home built Greywater Ready.



## GREYWATER DIVERSION OR GREYWATER TREATMENT?

The most suitable and cost effective way to manage your greywater will vary depending on your circumstances. Greywater Diversion Systems provide a reliable irrigation source by simply diverting greywater to your garden via subsurface driplines. They are low cost and require minimal energy inputs. Greywater treatment systems treat greywater to a higher standard so that it can be reused for various household use as well as garden irrigation. Uses include toilet flushing, washing machine use and car washing etc. Treatment systems are generally more expensive and have a higher energy consumption than diversion systems.

All greywater systems will turn your greywater from a 'waste' into a resource.

