

YOUR GREYWATER GUIDE

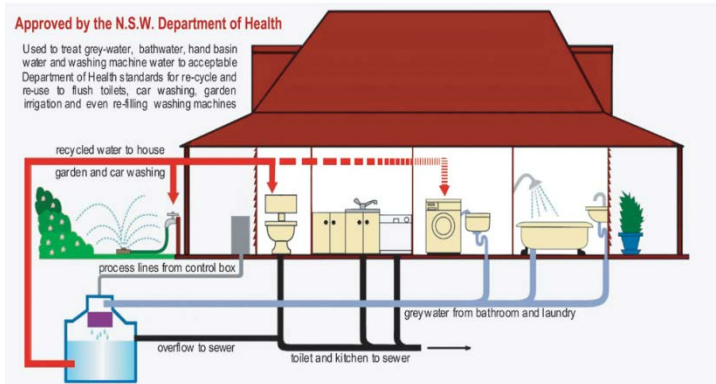
If you are interested in using greywater read more about what greywater is, the risks in using greywater and common sense precautions needed to use greywater safely.

Conducting regular health checks on your garden will ensure that the use of greywater is not damaging the health of your soil and plants.

Which water to use? Greywater is all the waste water produced in the household but not the toilet. Because of the health risks, recommended sources for greywater use are:

Source of Water	Use as Greywater
Shower /Bath	Best
Basin	Possible
Laundry Tub	Possible
Washing Machine	Possible
Kitchen	Never
Toilet	Never

An example of a full greywater use system from Australia:



How can I best use grey water in my garden?

A well designed greywater system, could be used to irrigate areas of the garden in dry weather. Because greywater is associated with health risks, it is usually applied to the garden below ground or at least under mulch.

The Do's

- ✓ use greywater on established plants, not on seedlings or young plants which are more vulnerable to high concentrations of salt and nutrients
- ✓ select plants local to your area that are greywater tolerant
- ✓ water during cooler periods of the day when there is less direct sunlight. Longer, deeper watering, for 30–60 minutes, once or twice a week is better than frequent shallow watering. This allows plants to absorb more efficiently and prevents salt build-up
- ✓ apply greywater directly onto the base of plants or use a *plant friendly* irrigation system to prevent leaf burn
- ✓ stop using greywater if plants show signs of distress (such as burning of leaf edges). Water the area with fresh water to remove possible salt and nutrient build-up before commencing greywater reuse.

The Don'ts

- × Don't use greywater on plants in pots as the risk of salt and nutrient build-up is heightened by the limited soil volume. This may damage the plant's root system
- × Don't use greywater on edible parts of herbs, vegetables and fruit, or allow it to splash on them
- × Don't store greywater if it can't be used immediately on the lawn or garden.

National Standards - Currently there are no specific national guidelines that address greywater reuse in New Zealand. Some Councils have rules and policies on greywater use. Central Otago District Council is currently investigating this further.

Building Consent - If you need to modify existing waste pipes to install a greywater system, you will need to get a building consent. A simple system, which captures water from the washing machine may not. Please contact the Council for further information.

Greywater cannot be used for cooking, bathing, brushing teeth, swimming or drinking.