

HOW TO

make the most of greywater

Level 4 Water Restrictions were introduced on 1 November 2006 It is important to make every drop count.

Greywater is a great option to provide water for outside use. Even in times of drought and water restrictions, greywater can be used to keep your garden and lawn green, all year round.

Earlier this year the State Government introduced new plumbing laws. This allows the use of greywater by manual bucketing, for below ground systems with council approval, and for above ground systems. Council approval may be required.

However, it is important to note before using your laundry water, you need to know a few things about greywater and its use.

What is greywater?

Greywater is wastewater generated from household showers, baths, laundries and wash basins. This water can be diverted for use in the garden. However, using water from the kitchen is not advised as it has fats, grease and oil that can cause problems.



There are a number of different greywater systems available. 'Below ground' irrigation systems are preferred as they can be designed to suit the soil and other conditions in your garden, reduce potential ponding and odour problems.

Greywater, when used appropriately, can benefit your garden during water restrictions. But there are a few things to be aware of when using greywater.

- Make a conscious effort to choose low phosphorus, sodium (salt) and nitrogen content detergents, shampoos and other cleaning products, to avoid damage to your soil and plants.
- It is best to not continually use greywater on the same spot as some soils are less tolerant of greywater.
- Always apply greywater directly to the soil, not the leaves, as it can remove the waxy outer coating of plant foliage.
- Avoid using greywater on your vegetables as it may contain bacteria.
- Greywater should be kept away from children's play areas and ensure that it does not enter swimming pools or flow into neighbouring properties
- Annuals, flowers, shallow-rooted native plants and acid-loving species such as azaleas are more likely to suffer with long-term use of greywater.



Greywater is an excellent way to provide water for outside use, but it must be used responsibly. Applicable new laws require that greywater not cause danger, health risk or nuisance.

Remember, if you would like to use greywater from your house on your lawns and garden, please contact Council to check on any necessary approvals. Information is also available from the State Government.

Currently the State Government is offering rebates for the installation of greywater systems. For more information about the rebates, call 1800243 585 or visit www.nrm.qld.gov.au/water



www.ipswich.qld.gov.au

When used appropriately, greywater can benefit your garden and lawn

