

Greywater

This fact sheet has been designed to provide you with information about greywater. It addresses some of the frequently asked questions we receive about greywater.

What is greywater?

Greywater is wastewater from the bath, shower, handbasin and laundry which can be diverted for reuse on lawns and gardens. Kitchen greywater is not suitable for reuse, as grease and oil can clog irrigation systems and build up on soil surfaces.

Using greywater

Under the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018, residents in sewerred areas may use greywater by means of:

- Manual bucketing (except kitchen greywater).
- Connecting a flexible hose to a washing machine outlet.
- Greywater diversion devices and treatment plants by licensed plumbers, connected to an irrigation hose, surface or sub-surface system (with Council approval).

Care should be taken if reusing greywater because of its:

- Potential health risks to humans.
- Potential for environmental damage to soils, ground water and waterways caused by increased nutrient and chemical levels.

What do I need Council approval for?

You will need a plumbing permit before installing either:

- A greywater diversion device, which diverts greywater from the bath, shower, hand basin and/or laundry to an irrigation hose.
- A greywater treatment system, which collects the greywater and treats it to a high standard for reuse as garden irrigation.

You do not need a permit for manual bucketing or connection of a flexible hose to a washing machine outlet.

What is a greywater diversion device?

A greywater diversion device can be installed to enable the diversion of untreated greywater. Installation must be carried by a licensed plumber and consist of a filter that screens for hair, lint and other solids. The device must be fitted with a switch to divert greywater through to a subsurface or surface irrigation system.

The system must also be able to automatically divert to the sewer if there is a blockage.

Homeowners can control irrigation with the volume and type of greywater diverted. Devices must have WaterMark approval and comply with the requirements of the Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation.

What is a greywater treatment system?

A greywater treatment plant collects, stores, treats, and disinfects greywater to specific standards and can be installed in both sewered and unsewered areas. Installation must be carried out by a licensed plumber.

Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code (QPW) has been amended to provide for the level of treatment required for a particular end use. Details are available in Table T1A, T1B or T1C of the QPW Code.

Potential end uses include:

- Toilet flushing.
- Laundry use (cold water source to washing machines).
- Vehicle washing.
- Path and wall wash down.
- Lawn and garden spray irrigation.

Information for Plumbers

There are greywater guidelines for plumbers on the [Department of Housing and Public Works website](#). This information can help plumbers assess whether the homeowner has suitable and sufficient land to distribute greywater.

Plumbers should use these guidelines to give advice on the purchase and installation costs of greywater systems, prior to the homeowner making an application to Council for approval.

Further Information

For further information contact Council at 1300 763 903 or email enquiries@cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au.