

Howdy,
I'm Wilbur The
Water Warrior.
**EVERY DROP
COUNTS**



rethink

GREY WATER

A lot of the water consumed by a household can be preserved. There are some key things that you can do to save water in your home:

Why Use Greywater

Greywater from residential premises (single households) is a resource that can be re-used on-site for garden and lawn irrigation or, if treated appropriately, for toilet flushing and laundry use (washing machine only).

Greywater can be collected from baths, showers and hand basins but excludes water from the toilet and kitchen. Using greywater and rainwater on the garden is a way to keep it alive without relying on precious drinking water.

However it is important to note that greywater can contain potentially harmful bacteria and pathogens. Greywater can also contain large amounts of chemicals such as detergents. When greywater is not treated or stored correctly it can cause risks to human health and the environment. Should Council become aware of any incidence involving the poor practice of greywater re-use, you may be subject to fines and clean up action.



How can I use Greywater:

There are three ways of reusing greywater that can be implemented for sewer residential premises in NSW. These are greywater diversion; greywater treatment; and manual bucketing.

GREY WATER DIVERSION

Greywater diversion is a system that diverts greywater generated by a premises to the garden or lawn for use via sub-surface irrigation.

A diversion device does not require any treatment of the water as long as the greywater is applied underground.

Approval from your local Council to install and operate a diversion device may not be required if the installation and operation meet certain conditions.

GREY WATER TREATMENT

A greywater treatment system is a system that is designed to store and treat greywater to a level that can be safely re-used in and around the home.

Greywater treatment systems commonly produce water that can be re-used for toilet flushing, the washing machine and above ground irrigation.

To install a greywater treatment system the system needs to be accredited by the NSW Department of Health and a formal approval must be granted by your local Council.

MANUAL BUCKETING

Manual bucketing involves the re-use of relatively small quantities of greywater for irrigation. Manual bucketing is generally undertaken by using a bucket to collect greywater like shower and laundry water and then emptying the bucket onto gardens, lawns and outdoor pot plants.

Manual bucketing is considered to be a low risk activity as it generally re-uses low volumes of greywater. It should be noted however if your washing machine has the potential to be impacted by high levels of faecal matter such as through soiled clothing, manual bucketing should not be used.

There are a few very important things that you must do if you are utilising manual bucketing to ensure human and environmental health is protected:

- Buckets of greywater should be emptied as soon as possible. Greywater should never be stored for more than 24 hours as it has the potential for bacteria to breed, and cause health risks.
- Greywater must not have the potential to enter any stormwater drains or natural water courses.
- Greywater must not leave your premise boundary or cause a nuisance to your neighbours.
- Greywater must not pond on the surface.
- Washing liquids, detergents and soaps low in phosphates and salts should be used. Most products list if they are suitable for use for greywater on the label.
- Be careful lifting and carrying the buckets.
- Re-use the greywater on numerous locations within your garden to prevent saturation.
- Don't apply greywater in areas that are readily accessible to children, people with a low immune system or pets.
- Don't re-use greywater on plants that will be eaten.

For further information and guidance on the re-use of greywater, download a copy of the NSW Water "Greywater Re-use In Sewered, Single Household Residential Premises" Guideline.

Please contact Muswellbrook Shire Council for further information



(02) 6549 3700



(02) 6549 3701



council@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au



muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au



157 Maitland Street Muswellbrook 2333



PO Box 122 Muswellbrook 2333



muswellbrook shire council