

Contacts

Contact your local building official for plumbing permit requirements.

Cloverdale - (707) 894-1727

Cotati - (707) 665-3638

Healdsburg - (707) 431-3348

Petaluma - (707) 778-4301

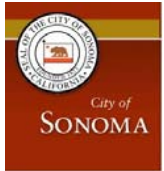
Rohnert Park - (707) 588-2240

Santa Rosa - (707) 543-3200

Sebastopol - (707) 823-8597

Sonoma - (707) 938-3681

Windsor - (707) 838-5341

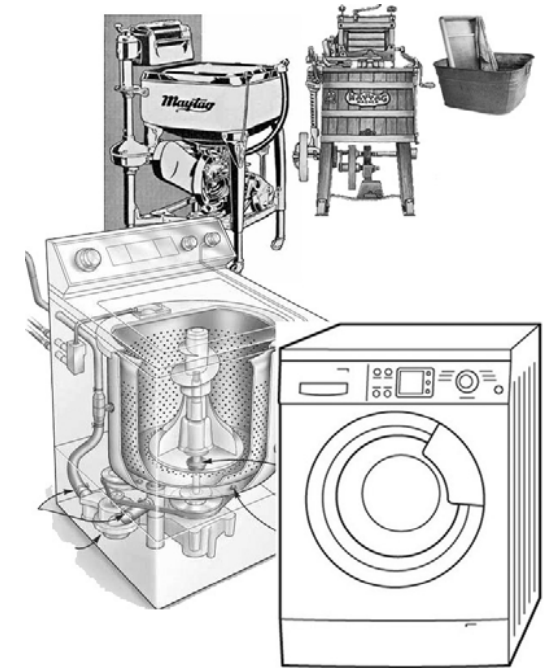


For more information about Graywater Systems, call the Well and Septic section of Sonoma County's Permit and Resource Management Department at (707) 565-2849

Special thanks goes out to the Sonoma County Graywater Working Group for their collaboration and assistance in creating this brochure:



GRAYWATER SYSTEMS



The Clothes Washer System

Resources:

Copies of the Graywater regulations (CA Plumbing Code Chapter 16A) are available at the CA Dept of Housing and Community Development website at:

http://www.hcd.ca.gov/codes/shl/2007CPC_Graywater_Complete_2-2-10.pdf

Funding Assistance:

The Sonoma County Energy Independence Program (SCEIP) offers property owners the opportunity to finance energy efficient property improvements through the property tax system.

<http://sonomacountyenergy.org/index.php>



COUNTY OF SONOMA
PERMIT AND RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

What is Graywater?

Graywater is wastewater collected from showers, bathtubs, bathroom sinks, and clothes washing machines. Graywater does not include water from toilets, kitchen sinks, or dishwashers. Graywater can be routed to your landscape to help meet your irrigation needs.

Types of Systems

There are three types of graywater systems:

- Clothes Washer System - No permit required
- Simple System* - Permit required
- Complex System* - Permit required

**This brochure only addresses clothes washer systems. Other types of graywater systems require a permit, design, and inspection by your local jurisdiction and are covered in other brochures.*

What is a Clothes Washer System?

A Clothes Washer System is a graywater system that simply collects waste water from a washing machine and distributes it to your yard for subsurface irrigation of landscape plants. Clothes washer systems do not receive waste water from any other source. There is no requirement for a construction permit for this type of system.

Clothes Washer System Requirements

- The graywater system utilizes only a single domestic clothes washing machine in a one or two family dwelling.
- The graywater system includes a diversion valve that will allow the graywater to be diverted to the building sewer or septic tank.
- The diversion valve must be used when:
 - water is used to wash diapers and/or similarly soiled or infectious linens and garments;
 - during saturated soil conditions.
- The graywater generated only comes from the washing machine or laundry tub.
- All graywater generated will be contained within the property boundary.
- The graywater system will not be used to dispose of hazardous chemicals such as those derived from cleaning car parts, washing greasy or oily rags, home photo labs or other like activities.
- The graywater system meets all site and waterway setback requirements (see table).
- The distribution of graywater is all sub-surface, covered by a minimum of two (2) inches of soil, rock, mulch, or other approved shield.
- Graywater shall not be used to irrigate root crops or edible parts of food crops that touch the soil.
- The graywater system does not include a potable water connection or pump and the system meets the design and construction standards found in the state regulations.
- The finished system must have an operation manual for the homeowner and it shall be provided to any new homeowner at time of sale or transfer.

Setback Requirements

Minimum Horizontal Distance Required From:	Graywater Irrigation Field Distance in Feet
Building structures ¹	2
Property line adjoining private property	1.5
Water supply wells ²	100
Streams and lakes ²	100 ³
Seepage pits	5
Leachfield/Expansion Area	4 ⁴
Septic tank	5
Onsite domestic water service line	0 ⁶
Pressurized public water main	10 ⁵

¹ Building structures do not include porches and steps, whether covered or uncovered, breeze ways, roofed porte cocheres, roofed patios, carports, covered walks, covered driveways, and similar structures or appurtenances.

² Where special hazards are involved, the distance required shall be increased as directed by the Enforcing Agency.

³ These minimum clear horizontal distances shall also apply between the irrigation or disposal field and the ocean mean higher high tide line.

⁴ Plus two (2) feet for each additional foot of depth in excess of one (1) foot below the bottom of the Septic Leach line.

⁵ For parallel construction or crossings, approval by the Enforcing Agency shall be required.

⁶ Recommend 5'