



## Community Development and Sustainability Department

23 Russell Boulevard, Suite 2 Davis, California 95616  
Phone: (530)757-5610 Fax: (530)757-5660 TDD: (530)757-5666  
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# RESIDENTIAL GRAYWATER SYSTEM INFORMATION

Graywater includes wastewater from bathtubs, showers, bathroom washbasins, clothes washing machines, and laundry tubs. It does not include wastewater from kitchen sinks, dishwashers or toilets.

There are different requirements depending on the system proposed:

1. **Clothes Washer System** – a graywater system using only a single domestic clothes washing machine that does not require cutting of existing plumbing piping and is in compliance with 1603A.1 (see Clothes Washer System requirements below). A Graywater Installation Worksheet is to be completed and approved by the Building Department.
2. **Simple System** – A graywater system serving a one-or two-family dwelling with a discharge of 250 gallons per day or less. Simple systems require a Building Permit. The design of the Simple System shall be acceptable to the Chief Building Official and shall meet generally accepted graywater system design criteria. Information available on website <http://www.iapmo.org/2010%20California%20Plumbing%20Code/Chapter%2016A.pdf>
3. **Complex System** – A graywater system that discharges over 250 gallons per day. Complex Systems require a Building Permit. Complex Systems shall be designed by a person who can demonstrate competence to the satisfaction of the Chief Building Official. Information available on website <http://www.iapmo.org/2010%20California%20Plumbing%20Code/Chapter%2016A.pdf>

### Clothes Washer System

1. Complete the Residential Graywater System Installation Worksheet. (see reverse)
2. The design shall allow the user to direct the flow to the irrigation or disposal field or the building sewer. The direction control of the graywater shall be clearly labeled and readily accessible to the user.
3. The installation, change, alteration or repair of the system shall not include a potable water connection or a pump and shall not affect other building, plumbing, electrical or mechanical components.
4. The graywater shall be contained on the site where it is generated.
5. Graywater shall be directed to and contained within an irrigation or disposal field.
6. Ponding or runoff is prohibited and shall be considered a nuisance.
7. Graywater may be released above the ground surface provided at least two (2) inches (51mm) of mulch, rock, or soil, or a solid shield covers the release point, or by other approved method.
8. Graywater systems shall be designed to minimize contact with humans and domestic pets.
9. Water used to wash diapers or similarly soiled garments shall not be used in graywater system.
10. Graywater shall not contain hazardous chemicals.
11. Exemption from construction permit requirements of this code shall not be deemed to grant authorization for any graywater system to be installed in a manner that violates other provisions of this code or any other laws or ordinances of the City of Davis.
12. An operation and maintenance manual shall be provided. Directions shall indicate the manual is to remain with the building throughout the life of the system and indicate that upon change of ownership or occupancy, the new owner or tenant shall be notified the structure contains a graywater system.



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# RESIDENTIAL GRAYWATER SYSTEM INSTALLATION WORKSHEET

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Permit# \_\_\_\_\_

Use the space below to provide a plot plan showing: all your property lines, an outline of your house and the section of the yard into which the graywater will be discharged. See the other side of this form for guidelines for designing a Clothes Washer graywater system.

I understand that even if the graywater system does not require a building permit, it must conform to all applicable California Codes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of property owner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Building Division approval

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date