

## GREYWATER

Greywater (all non-toilet household wastewater) can be a good water resource during times of drought and water restrictions, but its reuse can carry health and environmental risks. Greywater systems fall into two categories:

- Simple 'diversion' devices which temporarily store water briefly before releasing it without treatment, usually to gardens for subsurface irrigation
- Greywater treatment systems which incorporate physical and biological treatment to improve water quality before discharge.

### *Diversion devices*

Greywater can be reused following a few simple steps with readily available systems such as rubber sleeves which cost around \$ 9 from hardware stores. These products are designed for immediate greywater reuse.

For general information go to the [SaveWater Alliance](#) website or download the [Using Greywater](#) guide produced by the [Alternative Technology Association](#).

### *Treatment Systems*

If you wish to put in a permanent treatment system for greywater reuse, you should talk to your local Council regarding local requirements and contact the Environment Protection Authority on (03) 9695 2722.

### *General Do's and Don'ts*

#### *Greywater dos*

- Only use wastewater from baths, showers, hand basins and washing machines (preferably the final rinse water).
- Only use greywater on the garden and rotate which areas you water.
- Only apply enough water that the soil can absorb.
- Wash your hands following watering with greywater.
- Stop using greywater during wet periods.
- Stop using greywater if odours are generated and plants do not appear to be healthy.

#### *Greywater don'ts*

- Water vegetable gardens if the crop is to be eaten raw or uncooked.
- Use greywater that has faecal contamination, for example wastewater used to launder nappies.
- Use kitchen wastewater (including dishwashers) due to the high concentration of food wastes and chemicals that are not readily broken down by soil organisms.
- Store greywater for more than 24 hours.
- Let children or pets drink or play with greywater.
- Allow greywater to flow from your property or enter stormwater systems.