

# Greywater Reuse

## An alternative water source

**Efficient use of water and water conservation are key commitments of Power and Water. Alternative water sources, such as greywater and rainwater tanks, are not areas directly handled by Power and Water. However the following information provides guidance and contact details for people seeking further information on greywater reuse systems.**



## Greywater

Greywater includes wastewater from showers, baths, spas, hand basins, laundry tubs, washing machines, dishwashers and kitchen sinks. However, kitchen water can contain food particles, grease, oils and fats and its use is not recommended (particularly without treatment). Greywater does not include wastewater from the toilet and this wastewater should never be collected for re-use by a greywater system.



More than 65 per cent of water used in Territory households goes into gardens. Greywater can be an alternative water source for gardens, however there are risks associated with its use and regulations that must be complied with.

Greywater reuse systems vary greatly. Water from showers and baths generally are the lowest risk to reuse in the garden and also provide the best opportunity. The typical Territory household uses about 10 per cent of its water consumption in showers and baths. While many people are happy to use these systems, they are relatively expensive and they can be difficult to correctly maintain.

## Types of greywater systems

There are different kinds of greywater reuse systems used in residential premises.

**Greywater diversion devices (GDD)** - should only be used for sub-surface irrigation and there are a number of do's and don'ts. Wastewater from the bath, basin, shower and laundry may be suitable for this type of system.

**Greywater treatment systems (GTS)** - where greywater is treated and can then be used for purposes such as toilet flushing, clothes washing and surface irrigation. Wastewater from all of the GDD purposes can be used as well as kitchen wastewater.



**Manual bucketing** - reuse of relatively small amounts of greywater for irrigation purposes.

Further information on greywater reuse in homes can be found on the Department of Health and Families' website, Environmental Health Fact Sheet No. 503, '[Permanent Greywater Reuse in single domestic premises](#)' and Fact Sheet No. 502 [Manual Bucketing & Temporary Diversion of Greywater in Single Domestic Premises](#) available from [www.health.nt.gov.au](http://www.health.nt.gov.au)

## Power and Water's requirements in regards to greywater reuse

If a property has a greywater system installed to operate in conjunction with the water supplied by Power and Water, a backflow prevention device may need to be installed at the water meter.

### Greywater diversion devices and manual bucketing

Where a residential property has a temporary or manually operated greywater reuse system installed without treatment or storage facilities, Power and Water will not require an additional backflow prevention device to be installed.

The property owner should advise Power and Water of their intent to use greywater to ensure that on 20mm or 25mm water meters an additional meter incorporating an integrated dual check valve has been installed.

### Greywater treatment system

Where a residential property has a greywater treatment system installed, Power and Water require that:

- The GTS must be compliant with the Department of Health and Families requirements.
- A licensed plumber with a backflow tester accreditation must assess the hazard rating of the property.
- A backflow device, consistent with the assessment of hazard rating of the property, be installed at the water meter installation.
- Backflow devices are tested annually. The property owner is responsible for the ongoing costs associated with the testing.



## Approved products list

All on-site wastewater systems require product approval from the Department of Health and Families before marketing, sale or installation in the Northern Territory. The Department of Health and Families' website has an approved products list.

### Greywater treatment systems

[http://www.health.nt.gov.au/library/scripts/objectifyMedia.aspx?file=pdf/20/11.pdf&siteID=1&str\\_title=Greywater%20Treatment%20Systems.pdf](http://www.health.nt.gov.au/library/scripts/objectifyMedia.aspx?file=pdf/20/11.pdf&siteID=1&str_title=Greywater%20Treatment%20Systems.pdf)

### Greywater diversion devices

[http://www.health.nt.gov.au/library/scripts/objectifyMedia.aspx?file=pdf/33/65.pdf&siteID=1&str\\_title=Greywater%20Diverter%20Devices.pdf](http://www.health.nt.gov.au/library/scripts/objectifyMedia.aspx?file=pdf/33/65.pdf&siteID=1&str_title=Greywater%20Diverter%20Devices.pdf)

## Further information

For more information on greywater reuse please contact the Department of Health and Families on 8999 2400 or visit

[http://www.health.nt.gov.au/Environmental Health/Wastewater Management/index.aspx](http://www.health.nt.gov.au/Environmental_Health/Wastewater_Management/index.aspx)

For water efficiency and conservation advice contact Power and Water via our website [www.powerwater.com.au](http://www.powerwater.com.au), email [savewater@powerwater.com.au](mailto:savewater@powerwater.com.au) or call 1800 245 092.