

Combining greywater with rainwater



You can successfully combine greywater and harvested rainwater to irrigate your garden. Certain greywater system suppliers can install a trickle feed from a rainwater tank to introduce water into the greywater system at a very slow rate. Ask your system supplier what services and follow-up maintenance are included in their package.

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Be Smart!



Save our City!



Save our Environment!



Save Potable Water!



Be part of the solution and install a greywater system today!

Useful information



CITY OF CAPE TOWN CALL CENTRE

Tel: 0860 103 089

Water conservation tips and information, alternative water usage, bursts, blockages and water by-law transgressions

BOREHOLE WATER ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Tel: 011 447 0851

For a list of borehole contractors in your area

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS

Tel: 012 336 8125/8046

Aquifer/groundwater quality information

KIRSTENBOSCH BOTANICAL GARDEN

Tel: 021 799 8783

Water-wise gardening tips/information

WATER BY-LAW

Government Gazette 6378: 01/09/06

OTHER PAMPHLETS IN THIS RANGE:

- Introduction to alternative water resources (pamphlet no 1 of 4)
- Boreholes/wellpoints (Pamphlet no 2 of 4)
- Rainwater harvesting (Pamphlet no 4 of 4)

City of Cape Town Call Centre:
0860 103 089

SMS: 31373 (up to 160 characters)

E-mail: WaterTOC@capetown.gov.za



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WATER AND SANITATION



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GREYWATER RE-USE



Alternative Water Resources

Pamphlet no 3 of 4



**Be part of the solution
Our water, our pride**

Introduction

Water is a scarce resource in our country, and it has been predicted that the Western Cape will be the first region to run out of water unless steps are taken to manage the demand for water more efficiently.

What is greywater?

Greywater is defined as water from baths, showers and hand basins. Wastewater discharged from kitchen sinks and washing machines (except if environmentally friendly laundry detergents are used) is excluded due to its high solid content and the negative impact of softeners and other undesirable chemicals on the environment.

Greywater can be successfully used for garden irrigation and toilet flushing. There are many greywater systems available on the market. Some of these systems are very economical and easy to install.

Our gardens consume between 30% and 50% of all domestic water used. The reuse of greywater by individual water users alleviates the pressure on all other water infrastructure.

A greywater system can:

- Save valuable potable water
- Save you money and
- Relieve the strain on our natural environment

Connecting your greywater system

A greywater system can be easily connected to your downpipes on the outside of your house – either by yourself or the supplier.

Your greywater system supplier will usually provide you with one or multiple hoses and sprinklers, spread around the garden. The supplier will also provide you with a pump that is strong enough to pump through two sprinklers simultaneously, covering up to 60 m² of your garden at once.

Greywater storage

The very first greywater rule is not to store it. Stored greywater results in a pathogen bloom, which may be a health risk and also produces offensive odours. Your greywater is therefore pumped immediately to your garden.

If greywater needs to be stored, a water purification system must be added to clean the water.



The effects of detergents in greywater on your garden

Remember, when using greywater for garden irrigation, any product used in the bath or shower will end up in your garden. Most detergents contain by weight up to one third pure phosphates, which will accumulate in the soil and be toxic to your plants over approximately ten years of continuous use.

Therefore, it is advisable rather to use environmentally friendly detergents free of phosphates. Most of these detergents will carry the environmentally friendly logo on the package.

You may also use soda ash or washing soda, which will do just as well to emulsify oil and fat in your laundry.

Your greywater system and odours

Greywater does produce a faint odour while irrigating, but it disappears within seconds after irrigating.

Your greywater system supplier will provide you with maintenance instructions, which normally take a few minutes a week to ensure that your greywater system is odourless.

Linking your existing irrigation system to your greywater system

Never pump greywater through pop-up or Microjet sprinklers. Even with advanced filtering, the system will clog in a matter of weeks or even days. This is why your system supplier will provide you with the necessary pipes, hoses and fittings to connect to suitable sprinklers.

Greywater use in the fynbos garden

Provided you use environmentally friendly products in your home, greywater is good-quality water for the fynbos garden.

- 1 Use the correct sprinklers with your grey water system to prevent clogging.
- 2 An economical grey water system which can be easily installed by the homeowner.
- 3 Grey water is a good quality water for the fynbos garden.
- 4 A sophisticated grey water system which can be buried underground.