



Greywater Manual Bucketing Guidelines



Manually irrigating with greywater using a bucket (e.g. collecting shower and laundry water for reuse) has the potential to reuse small quantities of greywater, thereby saving metered water. Bucketed greywater can be reused for irrigation of gardens, lawns and outdoor pot plants.

The best practice management control measures (***Do's and Don'ts***) for manual bucketing are a necessity as they reduce the risks associated with reuse, whilst providing a water source that has the potential to improve the health and appearance of the premise's soil and plants.

When undertaking manual bucketing of greywater:

- ✓ **Do** be careful lifting and carrying buckets of greywater, particularly over slippery surfaces and on stairs or steps.
- ✓ **Do** select garden friendly detergents that are biodegradable and low in phosphorus, sodium, boron, chloride and borax.
- ✓ **Do** select liquid washing detergents, as they are comparatively low in salts.
- ✓ **Do** reuse greywater in the garden in several locations rather than one single point.
- ✓ **Do** monitor plant and soil response to greywater irrigation.
- ✓ **Do** occasionally irrigate with drinking water to flush salts from the soil.
- ✓ **Do** apply a soil rewetting agent every six months.
- ✓ **Do** wash your hands after reusing greywater.

When undertaking manual bucketing of greywater:

- ✗ **Don't** reuse toilet or kitchen wastewater.
- ✗ **Don't** reuse greywater for irrigation during rain.
- ✗ **Don't** apply greywater in areas that are readily accessible to children and pets.
- ✗ **Don't** reuse greywater generated from the washing of nappies or soiled clothing.

- ✘ **Don't** reuse greywater when a resident has diarrhoea or is sick.
- ✘ **Don't** reuse greywater generated by cleaning in the laundry or bathroom, or when using hair dye or other chemicals.
- ✘ **Don't** reuse greywater generated by washing rags used for painting or for maintaining machinery and vehicles.
- ✘ **Don't** reuse greywater to top up rainwater tanks or swimming pools.
- ✘ **Don't** store untreated greywater.
- ✘ **Don't** over-water.
- ✘ **Don't** irrigate with greywater if the premise is located on an aquifer that is used for drinking water.
- ✘ **Don't** irrigate with greywater on dune sands.
- ✘ **Don't** reuse greywater on plants that will be eaten raw or where fruit has fallen to the ground and could be eaten.
- ✘ **Don't** use greywater to wash paths, driveways or cars.
- ✘ **Don't** reuse greywater so that it flows into the streets or down stormwater drains.
- ✘ **Don't** let greywater go beyond the property boundaries and cause a nuisance to neighbours.

Further Information:

NSW Department of Health - Greywater Reuse in Sewered Single Domestic Premises
http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/ehb/general/wastewater/greywater_policy.pdf

NSW Department of Utilities, Energy and Sustainability - Greywater Reuse Guidelines
[http://www.deus.nsw.gov.au/water/Greywater/Greywater Reuse Guideline.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.deus.nsw.gov.au/water/Greywater/Greywater%20Reuse%20Guideline.asp#TopOfPage)

www.envirop plumber.com.au - Provides a directory of sustainability trained plumbers.

www.lanfaxlabs.com.au - Provides information on detergents suitable for use with greywater reuse.

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