



Town of Woodside, Building Division
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Submittal Requirements for Gray Water Systems

CLOTHES WASHER SYSTEM - Per the State of California

- **Simple laundry (discharge from one washing machine)** to landscape systems with a discharge capacity of less than 250 gallons per day does not require a permit. See California Plumbing Code section 1502.1.1 and the link below to the States guidelines for this installation.
- <http://greywateraction.org/requirements-for-no-permit-systems-in-california/>

SUBMITTALS: for a Simple System or a Complex System

The Town of Woodside requires a Permit, Drawings and Specifications and a Percolation and Mantle test prior to the construction, installation, or alteration of any Gray Water System. The plans and specifications shall conform to the provisions set forth in the California Plumbing Code (CPC) Chapter 15 for Gray Water and CHAPTER 16,16A for rain water collection and shall be approved by the Town of Woodside Building Department and San Mateo County Environmental Health Department. Based on the scope of the project review may also be required by the Planning and Engineering Departments.

Graywater is defined by the California Plumbing Code as;

Graywater {BSC & HCD I}. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 17922.12, "graywater" means untreated wastewater that has not been contaminated by any toilet discharge, has not been affected by infectious, contaminated, or unhealthy bodily wastes, and does not present a threat from contamination by unhealthful processing, manufacturing, or operating wastes. "Graywater" includes, but is not limited to, wastewater from bathtubs, showers, bathroom washbasins, clothes washing machines, and laundry tubs, but **does not include wastewater from kitchen sinks or dishwashers**. Note: For the purpose of applying the standards contained in this code, "Graywater" as defined above, has the same meaning as "gray water", "grey water", and "greywater".

1502.1 General. The provisions of this section shall apply to the construction, alteration, and repair of gray water systems. A city, county, or city and county or other local government may adopt, after a public hearing and enactment of an ordinance or resolution, building standards that are more restrictive than the gray water building standards adopted in this code. For additional information, see Health and Safety Code Section 18941.7.

(A) All gray water systems shall be designed with a diverter valve to allow the user to direct the flow to the building sewer and either the irrigation field or disposal field, whichever is used. The means of changing the direction flow of the gray water shall be clearly labeled and readily accessible to the user.

(B) Water used to wash diapers or similarly soiled or infectious garments or other prohibited contents shall be diverted by the user to the building sewer.

(C) Gray water shall **not** be used in spray irrigation, allowed to pond or /runoff/ and shall not be discharged directly into or reach any storm sewer system or any surface body of water.

(D) Human contact with gray water or the soil irrigated by gray water shall be minimized and avoided, except as required to maintain the gray water system. The discharge point of any gray water subsoil irrigation or subsurface irrigation field shall be **covered by at least (2) inches** (51 mm) of mulch, rock, or soil, or a solid shield to minimize the possibility of human contact.

(E) Gray water may be released above the ground surface provided at **least two (2) inches (51 mm) of mulch, rock, or soil, or a solid shield covers the release point.** Other methods which provide equivalent separation are also acceptable.

(F) Gray water shall **not** contain hazardous chemicals derived from activities such as cleaning car parts, washing greasy or oily rags, or disposing of waste solutions.

(1) [HCD 1] The prohibition in Subsection (F) includes, but is not limited to, home photo labs or other similar hobbyist or home occupational activities.

(2) [BSC] photo labs or similar activities.

(G) Exemption from construction permit requirements of this code shall not be deemed to grant authorization for any gray water system to be installed in a manner that violates other provisions of this code or any other laws or ordinances of the Enforcing Agency.

(H) An operation and maintenance manual shall be provided to the owner. Directions shall indicate that the manual is to remain with the building throughout the life of the system and upon change of ownership or occupancy.

(1) A gray water system shall not be connected to any potable water system without an air gap, reduced-pressure principle backflow preventer, or other physical device which prevents backflow and shall not cause ponding or runoff of gray water.

1502.1.2 Simple System = Discharge capacity 0/250 gallons (947 L) per day or less.

Simple systems exceed a clothes washer system and shall comply with the following:

(1) The discharge capacity of a gray water system shall be determined by Section J 502.8. Simple systems have a discharge capacity 0/250 gallons (947 L) per day or less.

(2) Simple, systems shall require a construction permit.

(3) The design of simple systems shall meet generally accepted gray water system design criteria.

1502.1.3 Complex System = Discharge capacity over 250 gallons (947 L) per day.

Any gray water system that is not a clothes washer system or simple system shall comply with the following:

(1) The discharge capacity of a gray water system shall be determined by Section /502.8. Complex systems have a discharge capacity over 250 gallons (947 L) per day.

(2) Complex systems shall require a construction permit.

Submittal requirements: For both simple and complex systems

Minimum plan size is 18"x24" maximum plan size is 24"x36" - minimum 1/8" scale

- 3 full sets of plans
- Completed building permit application. This can be found on the Town's website at;
- Fees are due at time of permit submittal and are based on the project cost. Fees can be paid by cash or check. The Town does **not** except credit cards.
- Plot plan drawn to scale and completely dimensioned, showing lot lines and structures, direction and approximate slope of surface, location of present or proposed retaining walls, in-ground pool or spas, drainage channels, creeks or streams, water supply lines, wells, paved areas and structures on the plot, number of bedrooms and plumbing fixtures in each structure, location of private sewage disposal system and expansion area or building sewer connecting to the public sewer, and location of the proposed gray water system.
- Details of construction necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of this chapter, together with a full description of the complete installation, including installation methods, construction, and materials.
- Details for holding tanks shall include dimensions, structural calculations, bracings, and such other pertinent data as required.
- A log of soil formations and groundwater level as determined by test holes dug in proximity to proposed irrigation and/or disposal area, together with a statement of water absorption characteristics of the soil at the proposed site as determined by approved percolation tests.
Exceptions:
 - (1) The Authority Having Jurisdiction shall permit the use of Table 1502.10 in lieu of percolation tests.
 - (2) The Enforcing Agency may waive the requirement for identification of groundwater level and/or soil absorption qualities based on knowledge of local conditions.
 - (3) The absence of groundwater in a test hole three (3) vertical feet (915 mm) below the deepest irrigation or disposal point shall be sufficient to satisfy this section unless seasonal high groundwater levels have been documented to rise to within this area.
- Distance between the plot and surface waters such as lakes, ponds, rivers or streams, and the slope between the plot and the surface water, where in close proximity. Plans shall show a minimum distance of 100 feet from top of bank, or the distance required by the San Mateo County Office of Environmental Health, whichever is greater. This distance shall be confirmed with them. San Mateo County Office of Environmental Health's website on Greywater;
<http://www.smchealth.org/graywater>
- Provide calculations and method used to calculate gray water discharge totals. Show compliance with California Plumbing Code 1502.8.1

No work is allowed on slope in excess of 35%.