



Graywater Information Sheet

January 2016

Background

As a result of 2013 legislation, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment – Water Quality Control Division developed *Regulation 86: Graywater Control Regulation* (Regulation 86). In 2015, the regulation was adopted by the Water Quality Control Commission.

Regulation 86 is only one component of a larger legal framework which must be in place for graywater to be used legally in the state. In addition to Regulation 86, the Colorado Plumbing Board has a requirement for graywater piping within structures. Any graywater use will also need to comply with Colorado water rights, which is regulated by the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources.

The 2013 legislation made graywater an opt-in program for local jurisdictions **not** a statewide program. To allow graywater use, local jurisdictions include a city, city and county, or county will have to adopt an ordinance or resolution to allow graywater use within their jurisdiction by developing a graywater control program that meets the requirements of Regulation 86. Please contact your local city or county to see if a local graywater program is in place.

What is graywater?

Graywater is a portion of water used in a residential, commercial or industrial building that may be collected after the first use and put to a second beneficial use.

Graywater sources may include water discharged from:

- Bathroom and laundry-room sinks.
- Bathtubs.
- Showers.
- Laundry machines.

Graywater does **not** include water discharged from:

- Toilets.
- Urinals.
- Kitchen sinks.
- Dishwashers.
- Non-laundry utility sinks.

Graywater uses and treatment requirements

Regulation 86 outlines requirements, prohibitions and standards for graywater use for non-drinking purposes. Allowable graywater use categories are summarized below. Please see Regulation 86 for more detailed information. Note that local requirements may be more stringent than Regulation 86 requirements and may not allow all use categories.

Category A: Single family, subsurface irrigation	Category B: Non-single family, subsurface irrigation	Category C: Single family, indoor toilet and urinal flushing, subsurface irrigation	Category D: Non-single family, indoor toilet and urinal flushing, subsurface irrigation
• Single family users. • Design flow of 400 gallons per day (gpd) or less. • For outdoor, subsurface irrigation within the confines of the legal property boundary.	• Non-single family users. • Design flow of 2,000 gpd or less. • For outdoor, subsurface irrigation within the confines of the legal property boundary.	• Single family users. • Design flow of 400 gpd or less. • For indoor toilet and urinal flushing and outdoor, subsurface irrigation within the confines of the legal property boundary.	• Non-single family users. • No maximum flow for indoor use, design flow of 2,000 gpd or less for outdoor irrigation. • For indoor toilet and urinal flushing and outdoor, subsurface irrigation within the confines of the legal property boundary.

Regulation 86 outlines design criteria and control measures (aka best management practices) for each category. Please contact your local city or county to discuss local graywater control program requirements.