



A newsletter devoted (primarily) to new water-efficient products and technologies.

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Graywater Recovery and Treatment Systems (or is it greywater?)

In the aggressive search for and development of new water-efficient technologies for home and business, a number of firms in the U.S. and elsewhere have focused on the graywater^[1] treatment technologies. The capture, treatment, and reuse of graywater not only yields usable water that would otherwise be directed to the sewer, its use on the landscape and for car washing is generally not subject to the typical watering restrictions that are sometimes imposed by local jurisdictions.

^[1]Graywater is generally defined as washwater originating from showers, bathtubs, clothes washers, lavatory sinks, and the like. Graywater is distinctly different from: (a) "black water" which originates from toilets and (b) water derived from dishwashers and garbage disposals.

However, there are significant impediments today to widespread installation of graywater recovery and treatment systems, including: (1) restrictive health and safety codes and standards and

(2) product and installation cost. In the first case, code officials frequently oppose such systems because of legitimate concerns over microorganisms, other biological matter, oils, detergents, salts, and pathogens in the graywater. In California, for example, the graywater standards limit application of such water to outdoor (landscape) uses as covered in this state document: www.owue.water.ca.gov/docs/Revised_Graywater_Standards.pdf

Unfortunately, the California regulation (and those in some other states) severely restricts the usefulness and capability of most of the new systems now making their way into the North American marketplace. By limiting treated graywater application to the landscape, such indoor uses as water for toilet and urinal flushing, water for initial stages of clothes washing, and water for indoor and outdoor clean-up are not available. In other jurisdictions (outside of California), these limitations do not exist and the full capacity of new treatment technologies can be applied. **The reader is urged to always check with local, regional and/or state authorities to determine just what restrictions exist on the use of treated graywater.**

While the costs of graywater treatment systems vary significantly depending upon the application and the underlying technology of the system, it is frequently not cost-effective to install such a system as a retrofit for the purpose of reusing water inside the building. Instead, these systems are more ideally suited to new construction applications.

At least six firms have introduced products over the years that are designed to "capture" this very available "source" of water. While some have been in the "field" for years, others are still in various stages of development. The following systems (in alphabetical order) are currently on the "watch list" of water efficiency professionals:

AquaCycle® by PONTOS®, independent subsidiary of Hansgrohe AG, Schiltach, Germany

- Recycles graywater from lavatory sink, shower, tub and laundry for use in toilet flushing, clothes washing, cleaning, and on landscape
- Numerous existing installations in small and large residential and institutional

applications

- Company contact (from North America): 011-49-7836-51 19 20
- info@pontos-aquacycle.com
- <http://www.pontos-aquacycle.com/pontos/en/company/pontos.html>

Aqus™ Water Reuse System by WaterSaver Technologies, Louisville, KY

- Recycles graywater from lavatory sink for use in toilet flushing
- UPC (Uniform Plumbing Code) listed product
- Production and deliveries began in 2006
- Company contact: 502-741-1859
- info@watersavertech.com
- <http://www.watersavertech.com/>

BRAC Greywater Recycling System by BRAC Systems, Montreal Quebec

- Recycles graywater from lavatory sink, shower, tub, and laundry for use in toilet flushing
- UPC (Uniform Plumbing Code) listed product
- In production
- Trial underway in Seattle
- Company contact: 866-494-2722 or 514-856-2722
- info@bracsystems.com
- <http://www.bracsystems.com/home.html#>

Ecoplay, Muiden, The Netherlands

- Recycles graywater from shower and tub for use in toilet flushing
- Company contact (from North America): 011-31-294-26 43 11
- Not readily available in the U.S. at this time
- info@ecoplay.nl
- <http://www.ecoplay.nl/en/index.html>

Perpetual Water, Phillip ACT 2606 Australia

- Captures and recycles graywater from lavatory sink, shower, tub, and laundry for use in toilet flushing, landscape irrigation, and general cleaning
- System not yet available in North America
- Company contact (from North America): 011-61-2-6162-0650
- sales@perpetualwater.com.au
- <http://www.perpetualwater.com.au/>

ReWater by ReWater Systems, Inc., Chula Vista CA

- Captures, filters and reuses shower, tub, lavatory sink, and laundry water for landscape irrigation
- Available since 1990; numerous existing installations with proven track record
- Company contact: 619-421-9121
- support@rewater.com
- <http://www.rewater.com/>

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