

Greywater Systems

Reuse household water on garden beds and trees

DIFFICULTY Moderate–hard
TYPE One-off setup, ongoing use
TIME A weekend to a few days



DIFFICULTY
Moderate–hard



TIME
1–3 days setup



COST
Moderate



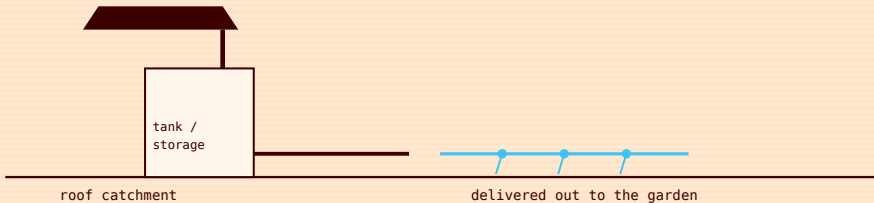
BEST SEASON
Set up any time



FREQUENCY
Passive once installed

01 From laundry/shower to garden

A simple greywater system diverts water from the laundry, shower, or bathroom sink out to garden beds or trees, rather than sending it straight to the sewer — significantly cutting overall water use.



02 What you'll need

- A diversion valve or dedicated greywater plumbing
- Greywater-safe (low-sodium, phosphate-free) soaps and detergents
- Mulch basins or a subsurface irrigation setup at the garden end
- Check on local regulations before installing

03 Method

1. Check local regulations — greywater rules vary significantly by location and system type.
2. Choose a source: laundry-to-landscape systems are typically the simplest starting point.
3. Install a diversion valve so you can switch between sewer and garden as needed.
4. Direct water to mulch basins around trees or garden beds — never store greywater, use it promptly.
5. Switch to greywater-safe products for anything feeding the system.

04 Troubleshooting

- **Plants showing stress** — check detergents are greywater-safe; many common products harm soil and plants over time.
- **Smell or standing water** — greywater should be used promptly, not pooled or stored; check the outlet is draining well into mulch or soil.
- **Blocked outlets** — lint and hair from laundry/shower can clog lines; fit and clean filters regularly.
- **Regulatory issues** — some areas restrict or require permits for greywater systems; confirm before installing anything permanent.

05 Timing & maintenance

BEST TIME	Install any time; a permanent, passive addition to water infrastructure.
DURATION	A basic laundry-to-landscape system can be installed in a day or two.
MAINTENANCE	Clean lint filters regularly; monitor plant health at the outlet points.
SIGNS OF SUCCESS	Healthy plant growth around outlet points and a visible reduction in mains water use.

06 Tips & variations

PAIRS WELL WITH

[Rainwater Harvesting & Tank Sizing](#)

[Mulching](#)

COMMON MISTAKES

Using regular detergents not safe for greywater use

Storing greywater rather than using it promptly

PRO TIP

Fruit trees are a particularly good target for greywater — established trees tolerate it well and benefit from the extra water.