

## *Permit Eligibility and Usage Requirements*

- ♦ The general permit is meant for private residential use only. Gray water must be used on the site where it is generated and cannot be accessed by the public.
- ♦ Under this permit, gray water can only be used for irrigation – not for dust control, cooling or other water uses.
- ♦ Spray irrigation is not permitted due to the potential for inhalation or drifting off-site.
- ♦ Gray water flow must be less than 400 gallons per day.

*Because individual towns, cities or counties may have more restrictive local ordinances, please check with local administrative authorities to gather information they may have regarding gray water use.*



The rule can be found in Title 18, Chapter 9, Article 7. To obtain a copy of the gray water rule, you may download it at [www.sosaz.com/public\\_services/title\\_18/18-09.pdf](http://www.sosaz.com/public_services/title_18/18-09.pdf) or call the nearest ADEQ office.

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## Using Gray Water at Home



The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's Guide to Complying with the New, Simplified Type 1 General Permit



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New regulations for use of all types of reclaimed water became effective Jan. 16, 2001. They include guidelines to make using residential gray water simple and affordable.



Gray water use will help you save money and conserve Arizona's valuable water.

## What is gray water?

In this new rule, gray water is defined as wastewater, collected separately from your sewage flow, that originates from a clothes washer, bathtub, shower or sink, but **not** from a kitchen sink, dishwasher or toilet.

## The Old vs. the New Rule

### The Old Way...

Many people were discouraged from using gray water by previous requirements to submit specific design plans for ADEQ review and meet the chlorination, sampling and filtering requirements necessary to remain in compliance, so they did not apply for the required permits.

### The New Way...

To make the process easier for homeowners who want to use gray water at their homes, ADEQ developed the new rules with stakeholder input. Many of these rules are based on the results of a gray water study conducted in the Tucson area, which you can view at [www.watercasa.org/research/residential/resindex.htm](http://www.watercasa.org/research/residential/resindex.htm).

The basic requirements to use gray water at your home are simple:

- Residents must adhere to the guidelines for a Reclaimed Water Type 1 General Permit. A Type 1 General Permit requires **no** formal notification to the department, **no** review or design approval, and **no** public notice, reporting or renewal.
- Although you don't have to apply to receive a formal permit for permission to use gray water, you must abide by the 13 best management practices (BMPs) listed in this brochure, which were developed to protect public health and water quality.

## Type 1 General Permit BMPs

Follow these best management practices to comply with Arizona's rules for gray water use

- First and foremost, avoid human contact with gray water.
- You may use gray water for household gardening, composting, and lawn and landscape irrigation, but it should not run off your own property.
- Do not surface irrigate any plants that produce food, except for citrus and nut trees.
- Use only flood or drip irrigation to water lawns and landscaping. Spraying gray water is prohibited.
- When determining the location for your gray water irrigation, remember that it cannot be in a wash or drainage way.
- Gray water may only be used in locations where groundwater is at least five feet below the surface.
- Label pipes carrying gray water under pressure if confusion between gray water and drinking water pipes is possible.
- Cover, seal and secure storage tanks to restrict access by small rodents and to control disease-carrying insects.
- Hazardous chemicals, such as antifreeze, mothballs and solvents, cannot be in gray water. Do not include wash water from greasy or oily rags in your gray water.
- Gray water from washing diapers or other infectious garments must be discharged to a residential sewer or other wastewater facility, or it can be disinfected prior to its use.
- Surface accumulation of gray water must be kept to a minimum.
- Should a backup occur, gray water must be disposed into your normal wastewater drain system. To avoid such a backup, consider using a filtration system to reduce plugging and extend the system's lifetime.
- If you have a septic or other on-site wastewater disposal system, your gray water use does not change that system's design requirements.



## Contacts for Gray Water Information



### Central Office (Phoenix)

Marcy Mullins  
Reuse Coordinator  
(602) 771-4464 or  
(800) 234-5677, Ext. 4464  
[mmm@ev.state.az.us](mailto:mmm@ev.state.az.us)

### Northern Regional Office (Flagstaff)

Bernice Carver  
Community Assistance Administrator  
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### Southern Regional Office (Tucson)

Linda Huser  
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Claudia Colosio  
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### Community Liaisons

Cochise, Graham, Greenlee and Santa Cruz Counties  
Sue Keith – Located in Sierra Vista  
(520) 515-3820  
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Yuma County and Colorado River Communities  
Greg Ferguson – Located in Yuma  
(928) 373-9432  
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Apache and Navajo Counties  
Byron James – Located in St. Johns  
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Yavapai and Northern Gila Counties  
Bill Feldmeier – Located in Prescott  
(928) 771-1121

Your ADEQ community liaison can also suggest a specific person in your county government to contact about gray water.