



Duke Farms
Living Habitats

Divert your wastewater

Why?

The use of Greywater and Warm-Up water has the potential to reduce your consumption of well-water or municipal water. Diverting and using greywater and warm-up water also reduce the amount of water you send to septic systems and sewers.

Considerations before you begin:

1. Does your state or municipality have any restrictions against reusing greywater or installing a greywater system at your home (most do.)?
2. Will your home and budget support the installation of a greywater diversion system?
3. Can you switch to environmentally responsible, biodegradable soaps and cleaners?
4. Untreated greywater should not be stored.
5. Wastewater can be divided into three categories:
 - a. *Black Water* – the water that is flushed from the toilet
 - b. *Greywater* – water from sinks, showers, baths and washing machines; household water except toilet water
 - c. *Warm-up water* – the water that runs down the drain while waiting for it to get to the desired temperature.

3 ways to re-use your wastewater:

1. **Save your Warm-Up Water.** Place a bucket under the faucet or showerhead while you wait for the water to get to a desired temperature then use that water for any number of things from boiling your pasta to watering your plants.
2. **Divert sink water to be used as toilet water.** Today plumbing systems exist that will divert sink water into the toilet tank to be used for flushing toilets. This way clean water is not used for toilet water.
3. **Divert greywater for use as irrigation.** Diverting greywater for use as irrigation water is a common practice. When watering plants it is important to remember whatever you put down the drain will be going into the water table.

Resources:

[Public Health Concerns with Greywater Recycling](#) – Colorado State University Extension
[Benefits, Uses and Drawbacks of Using Greywater](#) – University of California - Davis
[NJ Greywater Treatment](#) – NJ Green Building Manual
[Overview of Greywater Reuse: The potential of Greywater Systems to Aid Sustainable Water Management](#) – Pacific Institute
[Greywater use for Irrigation](#) – Green Affordable Housing Coalition