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 expect 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
- Overview of Greywater Reuse: The potential of Greywater Systems to Aid Sustainable Water Management, – Pacific Institute
- Greywater use for Irrigation – Green Affordable Housing Coalition