

## WATER'S WORTH IT™

*"A community should do everything possible to conserve water and promote efficient use of water resources."*

WATER'S WORTH IT™ is a trademark of the Water Environment Federation

## You Can Help Conserve Our Water!

- ⇒ Irrigate with gray water
- ⇒ Install a rain barrel
- ⇒ Check for leaking faucets
- ⇒ Make every drop count!

City of Norman  
201 W. Gray  
Norman, OK



## CITY OF NORMAN'S RESIDENTIAL GRAY WATER



**32% of typical household  
wastewater can be  
re-used  
as gray water for landscape  
plants.**

# Join Your Neighbors in Helping Norman's Environment

It's a waste to irrigate with great quantities of drinking water when plants thrive on used water containing small bits of compost. The benefits of gray water recycling include:

- ◆ Lower fresh water use
- ◆ Less strain on treatment plant
- ◆ Less energy and chemical use
- ◆ Groundwater recharge
- ◆ Plant growth
- ◆ Reclamation of otherwise wasted nutrients
- ◆ Increased awareness of and sensitivity to natural cycles.

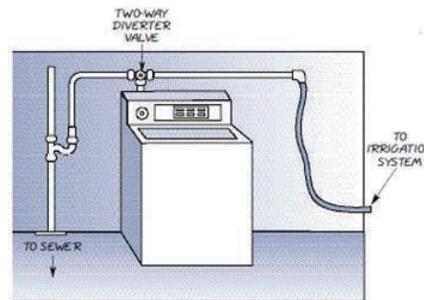


## Gray Water

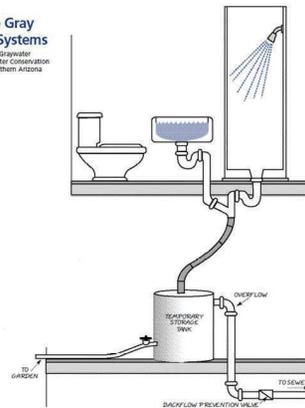
Because of a new City of Norman ordinance, gray water from private residents may be discharged for household gardens, composting or landscape irrigation.

### What is Gray Water?

Gray Water is untreated household wastewater that has not come in contact with toilet waste. It includes wastewater from bathtubs, showers, clothes washing machines and laundry tubs. Gray water does not include wastewater from kitchen sinks, kitchen dishwashers or laundry water that has been contaminated with fecal material.



Sample Gray Water Systems  
Adapted from Graywater Gardens, Water Conservation Alliance of Southern Arizona



## Gray Water Dos and Don'ts

- ◆ Two hundred fifty (250) gallons per day maximum
- ◆ Gray water storage tank must be covered
- ◆ Gray water system cannot be located in floodway
- ◆ Minimum five foot vertical separation from top of ground to groundwater table
- ◆ Pressure piping must be identified as a nonpotable water conduit
- ◆ Cannot run off resident's property
- ◆ Potential for contact with people or domestic pets is minimized
- ◆ No ponding
- ◆ No spraying
- ◆ No discharge to a waterway
- ◆ Gray water system does not allow rainwater to enter sewer system

## Helpful Hints

- \* Use biodegradable, phosphate-free soap
- \* Avoid using chlorine bleach, add white vinegar to the laundry's rinse cycle to lower the pH of gray water
- \* Mulch plants to reduce evaporation
- \* Avoid putting hazardous wastes, such as those from home photo labs or washed car parts down a sink drain