

FACT SHEET: PRE-PLUMBING FOR RECYCLED WATER

Recycled water or greywater from residential premises (single households) is a valuable resource. It can be reused onsite for garden and lawn irrigation or, if treated appropriately, for toilet flushing and laundry use (washing machine only). Using recycled water will not only reduce the demand on town drinking water supplies, but will also reduce the amount of wastewater discharged to the environment.

To recycle water for use in households, specific plumbing is required to ensure the health and safety of residents and to protect the environment health of community's waterways.

The easiest way to set up a home for recycling water is to make provision when it is being built. A licenced plumber is required to carry out the initial plumbing works that will allow a greywater diversion or treatment device to be fitted at a later date.

Benefits of pre-plumbing

There are many positives to carrying out pre-plumbing works on your new home:

- Ease of introducing greywater systems to reuse water in the household after the house is constructed;
- Less physical limitations at the time of dwelling construction compared to trying to alter existing plumbing in an established household; and
- Capacity to decrease reliance on the town drinking water supply by introducing greywater system.

Did you know?

Greywater includes wastewater from hand basins, washing machines, bathtubs and showers. It can be made safe for reuse if it is treated properly

Blackwater is wastewater from toilets and cannot be reused. Blackwater is disposed into the sewage system.

Draft Development Control Plan amendment provisions

One way that Council proposes to support the community to further conserve drinking water and protect the region's waterways is through its proposed Draft Water Sensitive Design measures. These will be put in place through an amendment to the Tamworth Regional Council Development Control Plan 2010.

The draft controls will require that all new houses must include pre-plumbing works for recycled water when they are first built.

The additional pipes installed for only greywater enables ease of future connection to a system that is able to treat greywater for reuse in the household. The addition of these pipes during construction of a home is more cost-effective than retrofitting. The work can also be done during construction of a home with less physical limitations compared to altering plumbing in an existing home.

Do I need approval to add plumbing for recycled water / greywater use?

All new dwellings already require a Section 68 permit for water, sewer and drainage connections. It is advised that home builders include intentions to add plumbing for greywater use in the same Section 68 application.

For existing dwellings, any new or proposed alterations to plumbing connections require a new Section 68 permit from Council.

Applicable Fees

Where Council approval is required, Council's adopted [Fees and Charges](#) will apply.

Need help?

For further information:

- Call us on (02) 6767 5555;
- Email: trc@tamworth.nsw.gov.au; or
- Visit the Development Hub counter:
Tamworth Regional Council
437 Peel Street, Tamworth
between 8:30am to 4:30pm weekdays.