



2021 Graywater Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is Graywater capture and use allowed in Delta County?

A: In short, No. The statute made graywater an "opt-in" program for local jurisdictions and not a statewide program. To allow graywater use, a city, city and county, or county will have to adopt an ordinance or resolution to allow graywater use within its jurisdiction by developing a graywater control program that meets the requirements of Regulation 86. The County doesn't have a graywater ordinance at this time, **but Delta County Environmental Health is looking at the feasibility of this type of program, its costs, and the appropriate mechanisms for implementation.**

Q: What is Graywater?

A: Graywater is a part of the water used in a residential, commercial, or industrial building that may be collected after the first use and put to a second beneficial use. [Regulation 86](#) outlines requirements, prohibitions, and standards for graywater use for non-drinking purposes. They can be found at: <https://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/GenerateRulePdf.do?ruleVersionId=6527&%2CfileName=5%20CCR%201002-86>. "Black water" is the term generally used for wastewater: "the combination of liquid wastes (sewage) which may include chemicals, household wastes, human excreta, animal or vegetable matter in suspension or solution, or other solids in suspension or solution which are discharged from a dwelling, building or other structure."

Q: What are appropriate sources of Graywater?

A: Graywater sources may include water discharged from:

- Bathroom and laundry-room sinks.
- Bathtubs.
- Showers.
- Laundry machines.

Graywater may not include water discharged from:

- Toilets.
- Urinals.
- Kitchen sinks.
- Dishwashers.
- Non-laundry utility sinks.

Q: I have a composting toilet; can all my other water go to plants and landscaping?

A: The short answer is NO. Current [Delta County Onsite-Wastewater Regulations](#) state that "An incinerating or composting toilet may be used for toilet waste where an OWTS is installed for treating

wastewater remaining after removal of toilet waste.” (Delta OWTS Regs: 9.6C; Section 9.8 discusses specifications of composting toilets.) All other appliances that produce wastewater will be connected to the septic system unless sewer is available.

Q: Well if I can't use graywater, can I capture rainwater?

A: Most homeowners in Colorado are now allowed to use rain barrels to collect rainwater.

- A maximum of two rain barrels with a combined storage of 110 gallons or less are allowed at each household.
- Collected rainwater may be used to irrigate outdoor lawns, plants or gardens.
- Untreated rainwater collected from roofs is not safe to drink!
- [CSU Extension- Rainwater Collection in Colorado?](#) The purpose of this factsheet is to provide information about the regulatory and health aspects of rainwater collection in Colorado. The information provided in this factsheet is based primarily on language in Colorado House Bill 16-1005 and is intended to inform citizens on how to properly use rain barrels in accordance with Colorado law.

Q: What other information is there on Graywater?

A: For more information about graywater, please see the [graywater information sheet](#). Or go to:

- Colorado Graywater website: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/water-quality/clean-water/graywater>
- Colorado Graywater regulations: <https://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/GenerateRulePdf.do?ruleVersionId=6527&%2CfileName=5%20CCR%201002-86>

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