

GREYWATER FACT SHEET 5

MAINTENANCE OF GREYWATER DIVERSION DEVICES AND TREATMENT SYSTEMS



GREYWATER DIVERSION DEVICES

Once a greywater diversion device is installed it is the owner’s responsibility to ensure it is maintained for the life of the installation. Greywater diversion devices and their associated sub-surface irrigation distribution systems require regular maintenance, such as cleaning and replacing of filters and periodic de-sludging of the surge tank, regular periodic inspection of the subsurface distribution system, and soil condition evaluation.

| Greywater Diversion Device Component | Maintenance Required | Frequency |
|---|---|---|
| Filter | Clean filter - filter should be removed and cleaned, removing physical contaminants (sand, lint, hair, etc) | Weekly |
| | Replace Filter | As recommended by manufacturer or as required (usually every 6-12 months) |
| Surge tank | Clean out sludge from surge tank | Every 6 months |
| Sub-surface irrigation distribution system | Check that water is dispersing - regularly monitor soil to ensure all areas are wet after an irrigation period | Weekly |
| | Soil condition | Check that soil is healthy. Signs of unhealthy soil include: - damp and boggy ground hours after irrigation - surface ponding and run-off of irrigated water - poor vegetation growth - unusual odours - clumping of soil - fine sheet of clay covering surface |
| Sensor probe (if applicable) | Clean sensor to ensure correct readings and therefore pump operation | Weekly |



This maintenance work itself has inherent health risks, just like managing a worm farm or compost bin. Rubber gloves and a mask should be worn and thorough washing of hands and clothes should take place immediately afterwards.

GREYWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

Once a greywater treatment system is installed it is the owner's responsibility to ensure it is maintained for the life of the installation. The maintenance procedures provided by the manufacturer, and any conditions of approval from the council, must be carried out as specified.

The NSW Health issued certificate of accreditation for the greywater treatment system may include specific maintenance requirements for the system.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Further detailed information on greywater reuse is available in the following fact sheets:

Greywater Brochure: How can greywater be used?

Greywater Fact Sheet 1: Greywater diversion devices – Do's and Don'ts

Greywater Fact Sheet 2: Choosing the right greywater system for your needs

Greywater Fact Sheet 3: Irrigating with greywater

Greywater Fact Sheet 4: Keeping your plants and soil healthy with greywater

The full Greywater Reuse Guidelines and these fact sheets can be downloaded from the Water For Life website: www.waterforlife.nsw.gov.au

