



Residential Graywater Reuse: Public Outreach Booklet/Flyer

Scope

Background

In 2018, the Maryland General Assembly passed Senate Bill (SB) 496: Environment – Graywater – Residential Uses. The purpose of the legislation was to help address predicted long-term water shortages across the nation. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) must adopt implementing regulations before a homeowner can take advantage of the bill's provisions.

SB 496 defined graywater as used, untreated water generated by the use of and collected from a shower, a bathtub, or a bathroom sink. Graywater does not include water from a toilet, a kitchen sink, or a dishwashing machine. This bill authorizes graywater use for residential purposes under certain conditions including: household gardening, composting, lawn watering, landscape irrigation, and/or flushing of a conventional toilet. The graywater must originate from a residence onsite and must be properly stored and covered. Graywater recycling is intended as a substitute for irrigation or to meet non-potable needs, such as toilet flushing.

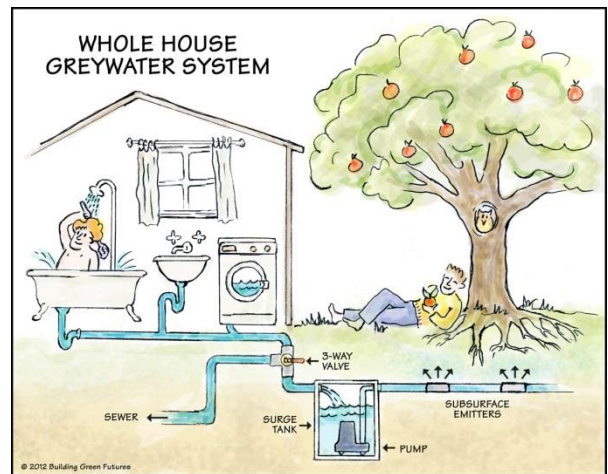


Photo source: <https://www.buildinggreenfutures.com/services/graywater>

To encourage its use in Carroll County, the Board requested the EAC prepare public outreach materials to raise awareness of this newly available option.

Overall Task:

The EAC will prepare a booklet or flyer which may include, but is not limited to:

- What graywater is,
- How it could be used by residents,
- Applicable State and local legislation and regulations,
- Potential costs,
- Advantages and disadvantages, and
- Other resources,

Work Product:

A booklet/flyer will be developed and presented to the Board.

Timeline:

Completion anticipated in Winter 2019, depending on when MDE adopts implementing regulations. As of June 2018, MDE anticipated regulations to be available in October 2018.