Laundry to Landscape: Graywater System Example

Laundry to Landscape systems are mostly suitable for downward sloping yards or flat yards.


This diagram is not drawn to scale and is provided for reference purposes only. It is your responsibility to properly design, install, maintain, and use your laundry to landscape graywater system (graywater system). If you are unsure of the intricacies of your plumbing system or how to properly design or install a graywater system, please consult with a professional. Valley Water does not accept any liability and responsibility for any direct, special, indirect or consequential loss or damage whatsoever arising out of or in connection with providing you with access to this diagram.

1. Diverter (3-way) Valve
   - 1" 3-way valve
   - 1" schedule 40 PVC
   - 1" PVC male x barbed adapter
   - 2-hole strap
   - Washing machine drain hose
   - Hose clamp

2. Auto Vent
   - 1 1/2" female adapter
   - 1 1/2" x 1" reducer bushing
   - Short piece of 1" PVC
   - PVC from 3-way valve
   - PVC to landscape
   - AAV or auto-vent

3. Transition to the Landscape Side of the System
   - 1" main-line PE tubing
   - Barb x insert adapter
   - PVC 90
   - Or
   - PVC 90
   - 1" union (optional)
   - See “Alternative Parts” note on page 2

4. Mulch Basin
   - 1" main-line PE tubing
   - 1/2" tubing
   - 1 x 1/2" tee
   - Visible mulch cover
   - Mulch Basin
   - Depth variable depending on site conditions

Fruits and vegetable plants are safe to irrigate with graywater so long as the edible portion doesn’t touch the ground and/or mulch.

*Exposed piping needs to be labeled every 5 feet as “Caution: Nonpotable Graywater. Do Not Drink.”

To allow the free-flow of water, the end of the main-line tubing remains fully open with no plug or valve.

**Increase distance if adjacent property has hardscape or is lower in elevation.

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Front loading machines can distribute up to 8 outlets (or less for a very efficient machine) while top loading machines can do up to 12.


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Laundry to Landscape: Graywater System Example Parts List

To jump-start planning your graywater laundry to landscape project, this handout provides an example parts list and system diagram. To protect your property, neighbors, and the environment, you'll need to seek out additional information for proper system design. As each system varies based on the home and landscape, the final system you install may require fewer or more or slightly different components than depicted. This handout is provided for illustrative purposes only.

For more information, please contact the Water Conservation Hotline at (408) 630-2554. Any available rebates are provided on a first-come, first-served basis and are not provided retroactively. For additional resources, please go to www.ValleyWater.org/GraywaterResources

1. Diverter (3-Way) Valve
   - 1" Brass 3-Way Valve (Diverter Valve) Avg. Qty: 1
   - 1" PVC Male Adapter (Slip x Male Pipe Thread) Avg. Qty: 2
   - 1- OR 2- Hole Straps Avg. Qty: 2 or as needed
   - 1" PVC Schedule 40 Avg. Qty: approx. 10-30'
   - 1" Barbed x 1" Male Pipe Thread Avg. Qty: 1
   - ½" x 1 ¼" Hose Clamp Stainless Steel Avg. Qty: 1

   **Note:** To connect to the diverter valve, smaller washer drain hoses may need a ½" Barbed x ¼" Male Pipe Thread with a 1" x 1¼" PVC Threaded Bushing

2. Auto Vent
   - Auto Vent (In-Line Vent or AAV) Avg. Qty: 1
   - 1½" PVC Adapter (Slip x Female Pipe Thread) Avg. Qty: 1
   - 1½" x 1" PVC Bushing Avg. Qty: 1
   - 1" PVC Tee Avg. Qty: 1

   **Example of Auto Vent Assembly**
   Install at least 6 inches above top of clothes washer in an accessible, visible location

3. Transition to the Landscape Side of the System
   - 1" PVC 90 or 45 Avg. Qty: approx. 1-4
   - Vacuum Breaker Avg. Qty: 1
   - 1" PVC Union Avg. Qty: 1 (optional)
   - 1" Barb x Insert Adapter Coupling and 1" Barb x 1" Male Pipe Thread Avg. Qty: 1 each
   - 1" Female Adapter Slip-Thread Coupling and 1" Barb x 1" Male Pipe Thread Avg. Qty: 1
   - 1" main-line PE Tubing Avg. Qty: approx. 5-100'

   **Note:** Alternative parts instead of 1" Barb x Insert Adapter

4. Mulch Basin: Graywater Outlets
   - 1" x ½" Barbed Reducing Tee Avg. Qty: 0-11
   - ½" PE Tubing Avg. Qty: approx. 0-20'
   - ½" Barbed Full-Port Ball Valve Avg. Qty: 0-4
   - Visible Mulch Cover Avg. Qty: 1-2
   - Mulch Shield (7" irrigation valve box) Avg. Qty: 1-12
   - Wood Chip or Bark Mulch (1/2"-3/4" chips) Avg. Qty: project dependent

   **Note:** Mulch can vary in appearance by color, texture, and source material

   **Additional Parts and Suggested Tools**
   - 1" PVC Coupling Avg. Qty: As needed
   - 1" Barbed Tee or Coupling Avg. Qty: As needed
   - Garden Staples Avg. Qty: As needed
   - Caulking Avg. Qty: 1
   - PVC Industrial Grade Glue Avg. Qty: 1/2 pint
   - Pipe Thread or Teflon Tape Avg. Qty: 1 roll
   - PVC Cutter Avg. Qty: 1
   - Channel Locks Avg. Qty: 1