

# Laundry-to-Landscape Graywater System

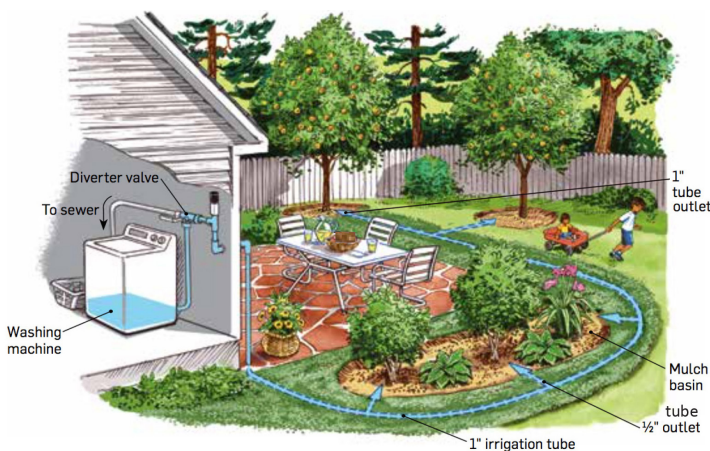


## Getting Started with Graywater

Graywater is gently used water from sinks, showers, and clothes washers (washing machines). Graywater is used to irrigate outdoor landscapes and provides a homeowner with a dependable, local source of water through the dry season. Irrigating with graywater can also help reduce your water bill. In addition, using graywater reduces inputs to septic systems and reduces the energy, chemicals, and costs required to treat water at wastewater treatment facilities.

There are many types of graywater systems, ranging from manually collecting water in buckets to fully automated irrigation systems. One of the most popular, simple, and affordable systems is the laundry-to-landscape (L2L) system, which uses water from the clothes washer to irrigate the outdoor landscape.

## The Laundry-to-Landscape System



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The L2L system captures graywater from the drain hose of the clothes washer and connects to a diverter valve, which allows graywater to be directed to either the landscape or the sewer. The water flows through either a 3/4-inch or 1-inch irrigation tube, depending on the diameter of the clothes washer's drain line. The irrigation tube must have one branch that maintains

this diameter, but may branch off into 1/2-inch tubing to irrigate specific plants. The tubing directed to specific plants are called outlets. This system does not alter the household plumbing and therefore does not require a permit in California, as long as basic guidelines are followed. It is one of the easiest systems to construct and is very easy to change.

Installing a L2L system is a suitable do-it-yourself project for people with basic construction skills. Be sure to follow the health and safety guidelines in Chapter 15 of the California plumbing code to be code compliant. Materials cost around \$250. Professional installations typically cost between \$800 and \$2,000. Applying for Valley Water's rebate can help you each step of the way.

## Steps to Plan Your L2L System

### 1 Estimate graywater flows

Old top loaders generally use 30–45 gallons per load, and efficient front loaders use 8–15 gallons per load. Based on how many loads you do a week, calculate the amount of graywater available to irrigate your plants.

### 2 Where can you deliver the water?

L2L systems can send water about 50 feet across a flat landscape, and a further distance downhill. Consider where the irrigation pipe from the clothes washer can exit the house: either through an exterior wall or crawl space.

### 3 Choose plants to irrigate.

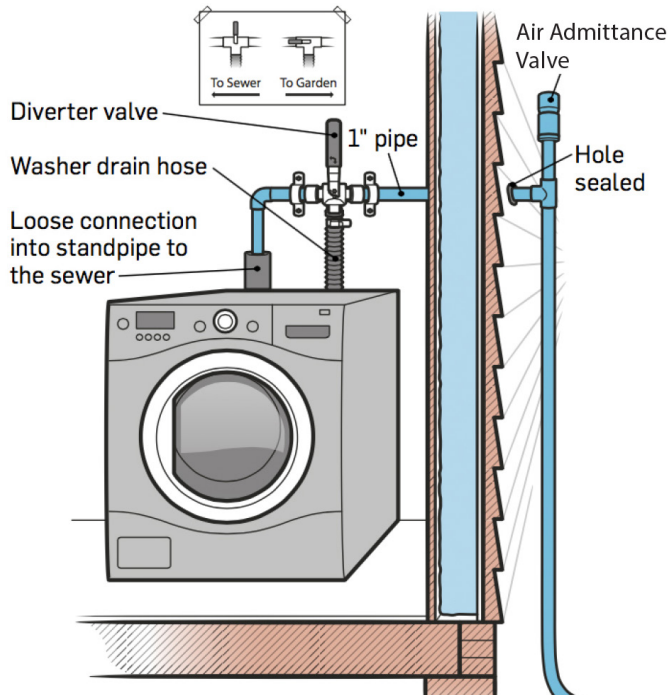
Suitable plants include fruit trees, ornamental trees, and shrubs, as well as larger perennials or annuals. Do not use graywater to water fruit or vegetables that come in direct contact with graywater.

### 4 Sketch your system, apply for the rebate, collect materials, and build.

Apply for a rebate before starting your project at: [valleywater.org/graywaterapp](http://valleywater.org/graywaterapp).

continued on back »

## Diverter Sends Water to Sewer or Landscape



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### Soaps and Products

To ensure your graywater irrigation is "plant friendly", use liquid detergents that are non-toxic, low in salts, biodegradable, and free of boron and chlorine bleach.

### Resources and Incentives

Free detailed instructions and how-to videos for installing your L2L system, plus installer and supplier listings are available at:

- [valleywater.org/graywaterresources](http://valleywater.org/graywaterresources)
- [greywateraction.org](http://greywateraction.org)
- [centralcoastgreywater.org](http://centralcoastgreywater.org)

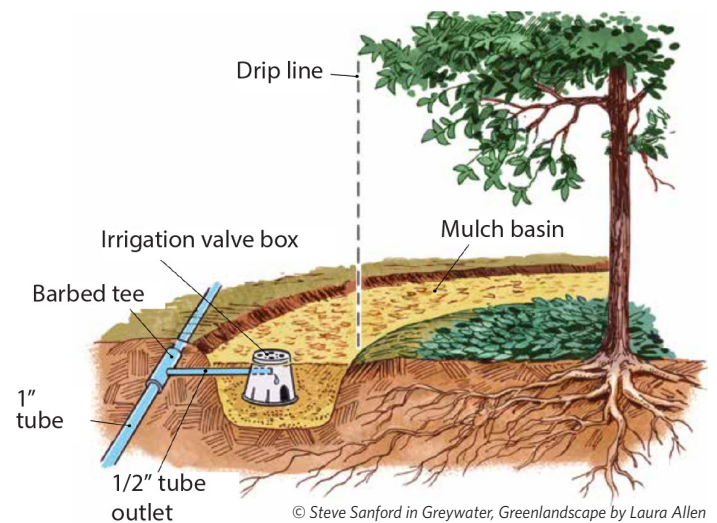
### Please Note:

To receive the \$200 or \$400 rebate, applications must be approved before beginning work on the project. No retroactive rebates are available. Rebate amount is based on your city or water retailer. This rebate **does not** contribute to the total rebate cap under the Landscape Rebate Program.

### Rebates

Receive a \$200 rebate or \$400 rebate through Valley Water. Apply before you begin this project. Details at [valleywater.org/graywater](http://valleywater.org/graywater).

## Graywater Delivers Water to the Dripline



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Courtesy of East Bay Municipal Utility District

## CONTACT US

For more information, contact the **Water Conservation Hotline** at (408) 630-2554 or by email at [conservation@valleywater.org](mailto:conservation@valleywater.org). Or use our **Access Valley Water** customer request and information system at [valleywater.org](http://valleywater.org) to find out the latest information on Valley Water projects or to submit questions, complaints or compliments directly to a Valley Water staff person.



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