PINAL COUNTY DIVISION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Residential Gray Water System General Permit

Definition of *GRAY WATER*: Wastewater, collected separately from a sewage flow, that originates from a clothes washer, bathtub, shower, and sink, but does not include wastewater from a *kitchen sink, dishwasher, or toilet.*

A Type I General Permit allows private residential direct reuse of gray water less than 400 gallons per day without notice to the Department if all of the following conditions are met: (A.A.C. R18-9-711)

1. Human contact with gray water and soil irrigated by gray water is avoided;
2. Gray water originating from the residence is used and contained within the property boundary for household gardening, composting, lawn watering, or landscape irrigation;
3. Surface application of gray water is not used for irrigation of food plants, except for citrus and nut trees;
4. The gray water does not contain hazardous chemicals derived from activities such as cleaning car parts, washing greasy or oily rags, or disposing of waste solutions from home photo labs or similar hobbyist or home occupational activities;
5. The application of gray water is managed to minimize standing water on the surface;
6. The gray water system is constructed so that if blockage, plugging, or back up of the system occurs, gray water can be directed into the sewage collection system or on-site wastewater disposal system, as applicable. The gray water system may include a means of filtration to reduce plugging and extend system lifetime;
7. Any gray water storage tank is covered to restrict access and to eliminate habitat for mosquitoes or other vectors;
8. The gray water system is sited outside of a floodway;
9. The gray water system is operated to maintain a minimum vertical separation distance of at least 5 feet from the point of gray water application to the top of the seasonally high ground water table;
10. For residences using an on-site wastewater treatment facility for black water treatment and disposal, the use of a gray water system does not change the design, capacity, or reserve area requirements for the on-site wastewater treatment facility at the residence, and ensures that the facility can handle a combined black water and gray water flow if the gray water system fails or is not fully used;
11. Any pressure piping used in a gray water system that may be susceptible to cross connection with a potable water system clearly indicates that the piping does not carry potable water;
12. Gray water applied by surface irrigation does not contain water used to wash diapers or similarly soiled or infectious garments unless the gray water is disinfected before irrigation;
13. Surface irrigation by gray water is only by flood or drip irrigation.

Prohibitions: Gray water use for purposes other than irrigation and the use of gray water spray irrigation are prohibited.

If the gray water system does not meet all of these criteria, a Type I General Permit is not valid. Prior to construction of a gray water system which does not meet these conditions, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality shall be notified, and an application for a Type 3 General Permit for Gray Water Systems will be required pursuant to A.A.C. R18-7-719.