

Harvesting your Grey Water

Grey Water Solutions are becoming all the rage. But before you rush out to find one read this! Learn information about grey water you may not know and how it can or should be used on the garden.

Product Guides by [SunshowerOnline](#)



Grey Water

Making the Most of Grey Water in Your Garden

With the enforcement of water restrictions and rain becoming less and less frequent in Australia, many people are searching for reliable sources of water to keep their gardens green. Grey Water is that reliable source, as long as people keep showering and washing their clothes it will always be there. Every litre of water you use can now flow straight on to your plants.



But before you run to the [Grey Water Recycling page](#) at SunshowerOnline, there are a number of key pieces of information you need to know first.

3 Facts about Grey Water

Grey Water Products are becoming all the rage at the moment, but we are already seeing a large number of people calling us, after buying GWDDs from other shops, to find solutions to problems that they should have been aware of when they bought it. We don't want that to happen to our customers so we have the following 3 Facts about Grey Water that you may not have already known:

1. Grey Water Cannot be Stored for more than 24 Hours

Because grey water is 'dirty' water and contains organic matter it becomes septic if it is stored for any period. Not only does it smell but it becomes a health hazard.

2. Laundry Water has Very High Levels of Lint

Naturally every load of laundry will have lint in it, a surprisingly higher amount than most people realise. This is an important factor because the lint has a large impact on filtration. The amount of lint in each wash is so high, you may need to clean the GWDD's filter after 1 load.

3. EPA Guidelines Require Grey Water to be Distributed Sub-Surface

Because of the risk of contamination, Grey Water must be distributed sub-surface, it cannot be sprayed or dispersed by drip tube on the surface.

How to Capture Your Grey Water

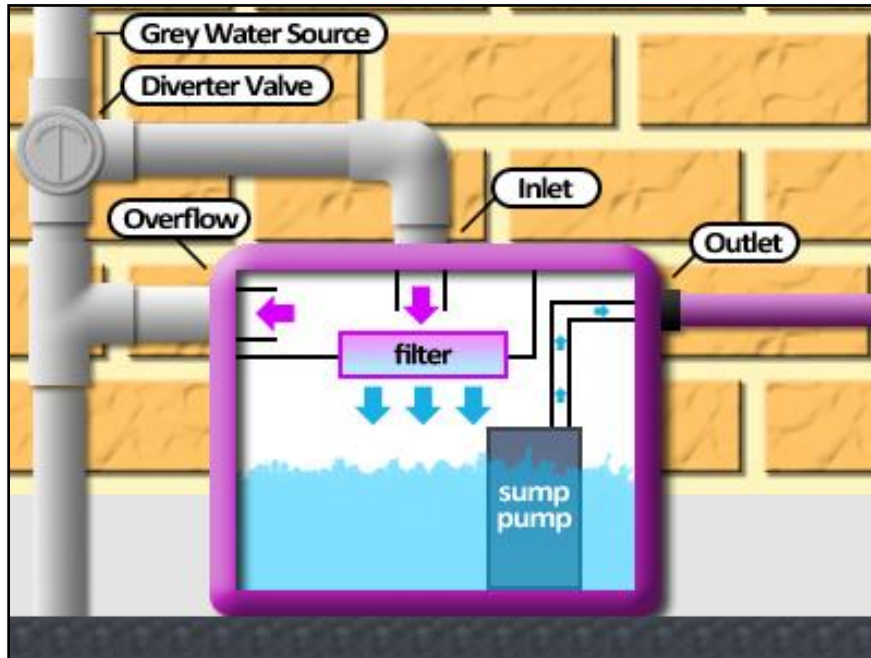
So you want to use your grey water on your garden, what you will need is a Grey Water Diversion Device (GWDD). There are a number available on the market and all of them essentially do the same thing.

Once the GWDD is connected into the plumbing from the shower or washing machine, the water flows in. Because Grey Water is so dirty, with hair and lint, the water must be filtered to protect the Sump Pump and whatever system you have connected further down the line.



The various GWDDs on the market filter the water different ways. Some use a series of sponges, some a basket or net and others have a metal strainer. Once the water has passed through the filter it drops into the main 'tank'.

Remembering that grey water can't be stored, a float switch inside the GWDD activates a Sump Pump and the water is pumped out onto your garden immediately. And as a safeguard, all units are required to have an overflow, so if the unit gets blocked, water can escape without backing up to your shower.



Using Your Grey Water

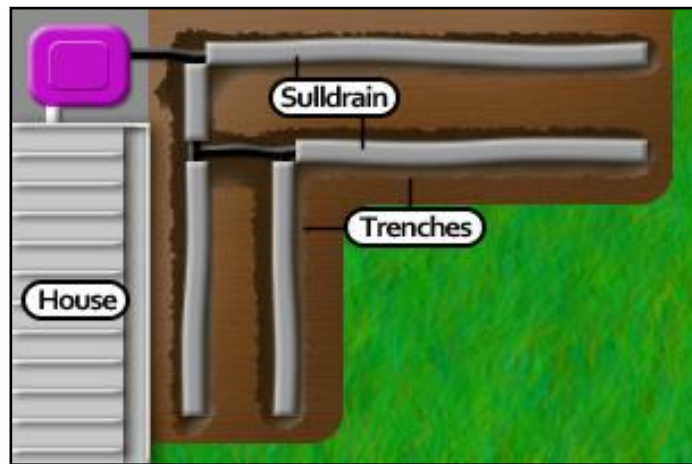
There are few different ways you can legally distribute grey water, but there are only 2 ways you can do it without burning out the sump pump and voiding the warranty of your GWDD.



Most device manufacturers say the only drip tube that can be used with the units is [Netafim Tiran](#), but that can't be buried to conform with EPA regulations. The following two options are both recommended by the manufacturers and don't break any laws.

Run 50mm Sulldrain.

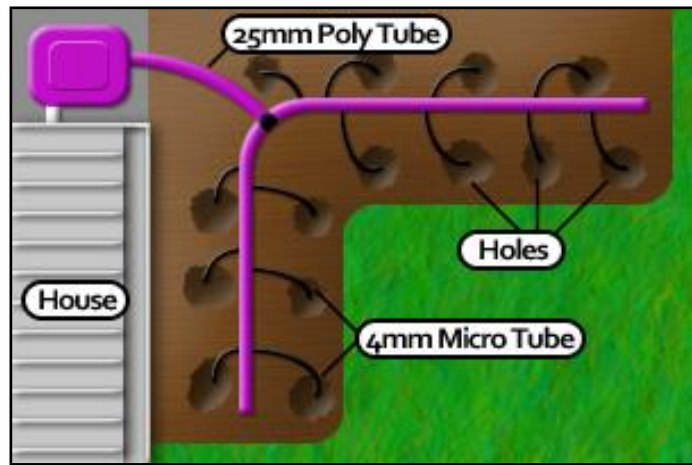
The first, the most effective and long term solution is by using the product [Sulldrain](#). This tube has 3 different layers which help for even distribution of water. The inner layer is a 25mm poly tube that has large holes along it, this allows for smooth, unrestricted flow of grey water. The large holes also allow any unfiltered rubbish to pass through and put minimal back pressure on the GWDDs Sump Pump. The middle layer is 50mm slotted corrugated drain pipe or 'Ag Pipe', this help for even distribution of the grey water for the whole length of the pipe. And finally the outer layer is an absorbent sock which spreads the moisture along every part of the tube, and prevents soil & root intrusion.



If you want the job done once and done right for the long term, Sulldrain is your answer, but because of the diameter of the pipe and the size of the holes, the length of each run is a lot less than standard drip tube.

Run 25mm Poly with 4mm Tails

The second, much cheaper but still effective option is to run [25mm Lilac Poly Tube](#) throughout the garden with [4mm Micro Tube](#) tails. And it's as simple as it sounds, from your grey water device run a 25mm poly tube along your garden bed, it can be buried or just run across the surface. Then to get water to your plants punch in a [4mm Barbed Joiner](#) and connect some micro tube, run the tube to the base of your plant, and to comply with regulations bury the open end in or near the root ball of the plant as to water sub-surface.



Because both of these options emit water at a very high flow rate, the length of each run of Sulldrain is limited to between 20 and 40 metres, and the poly is limited to the number of tails that are run to the plants.

SunshowerOnline sells only the highest quality Grey Water Products, we use all of the trusted brands to make sure your system works first time every time!