

Laundry Greywater System

1. Preparation/Site Planning

- a. Blue Stake – have all utility lines marked out
- b. Determine how much water is generated per week
- c. Match water supply with appropriate plants
 - i. You can use higher water use plants like fruit trees. Example: citrus trees use about 8,000 gallons per year.
 - ii. If some of your plants are deciduous (like peach or pomegranate), make sure to use some evergreen plants. Examples: artichokes, sages, hopseed bush.
- d. Determine if there is sufficient slope to create a gravity fed system
- e. Perform a percolation test to determine soil infiltration rates
- f. Always plan for rainwater to enter basins to flush out salts

2. Installation

- a. Have plumber do all the internal work
 - i. Plumbing needs to include P-trap and vent stack
 - ii. Joe with Desert Sky Home Repair is knowledgeable about plumbing greywater systems (Ph) 622-0607
- b. Dry fit all pipe work to make sure all the angles work before digging trenches
 - i. Use “double ell” to split flow evenly
 - ii. Make sure there is 2 feet of straight before a split to ensure even flow
 - iii. Use 1/16th street bend before double ell to reduce chance of clogging
- c. Ensure all pipes have sufficient slope for drainage – ¼ inch drop for every foot
- d. Use mulch to infiltrate greywater quickly – standing greywater is not allowed.
- e. Ensure the pipe outlet has a 2 inch free fall into a basin. This keeps roots out of the pipes and keeps lint and debris from clogging at the end

3. Use appropriate detergents – (no salt in ingredient list)

- a. Oasis (Food Conspiracy Co-op and Aqua Vita)
- b. BioPack (Food Conspiracy Co-op)
- c. Do not use bleach! You can use hydrogen peroxide based bleach.

4. Carefully monitor your greywater basins

- a. Make sure your basins don't become oversaturated
 - i. During the winter, some plants become dormant and don't need as much water, so you may need to reduce how much water goes to your basins
 - ii. Monsoon storms will saturate basins, so you may need to reduce greywater during the monsoon.
- b. If you're plants are not getting enough from greywater, you may need supplemental irrigation

Resources

Create an Oasis with Greywater, By Art Ludwig

Brad Lancaster's website: www.harvestingrainwater.com