



**DELAWARE HEALTH  
AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Delaware Division of Public Health  
Plumbing Permit & Inspection Program

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Grey Water Presentation for  
Delaware Water Supply Coordinating Council

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The Plumbing Permit & Inspection Program issues commercial and residential plumbing permits to licensed plumbers and conducts inspections state-wide where there is no local jurisdiction.

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Dover, DE 19901  
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## **GREY WATER SYSTEMS**

**Definition:** Grey water systems are systems that discharge from hand sinks, laundry sinks, bath tubs, showers and clothes washers.

**Purpose:** Grey water systems are utilized to recycle grey water to flush toilets and urinals or to irrigate.

### **Current Requirements:**

Grey water regulations are addressed in the 2003 Delaware Plumbing Code Appendix C \* see attached.

Grey water system pipe must be identified with either color markings or metal tags. Tags indicate contents, flow direction and nature of hazard.

Grey water systems must have a tank with two (2) times the capacity needed to flush fixtures and a minimum of 50 gallons. Tanks must be supplied with potable make up water, have a drain with a full open valve, and an overflow pipe. Grey water must be dyed blue or green with food based dye.

Grey water must be filtered with sand or DE filter and must be disinfected.

**Jurisdiction:** Delaware Public Health (DPH) and Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) share joint jurisdiction on grey water systems. DPH covers the system within the building up to 30" outside the wall. DNREC is responsible past the 30" including the filter, disinfection, and all outside applications.

### **New Requirements**

DPH is in the process of updating its regulations to the 2009 International Plumbing Code.

### **Changes in grey water requirements for 2009:**

- Requirement for disinfection is eliminated for subsurface irrigation systems.
- Section added for subsurface irrigation systems that includes soil evaluations, percolation tests and placement criteria for disposal beds.

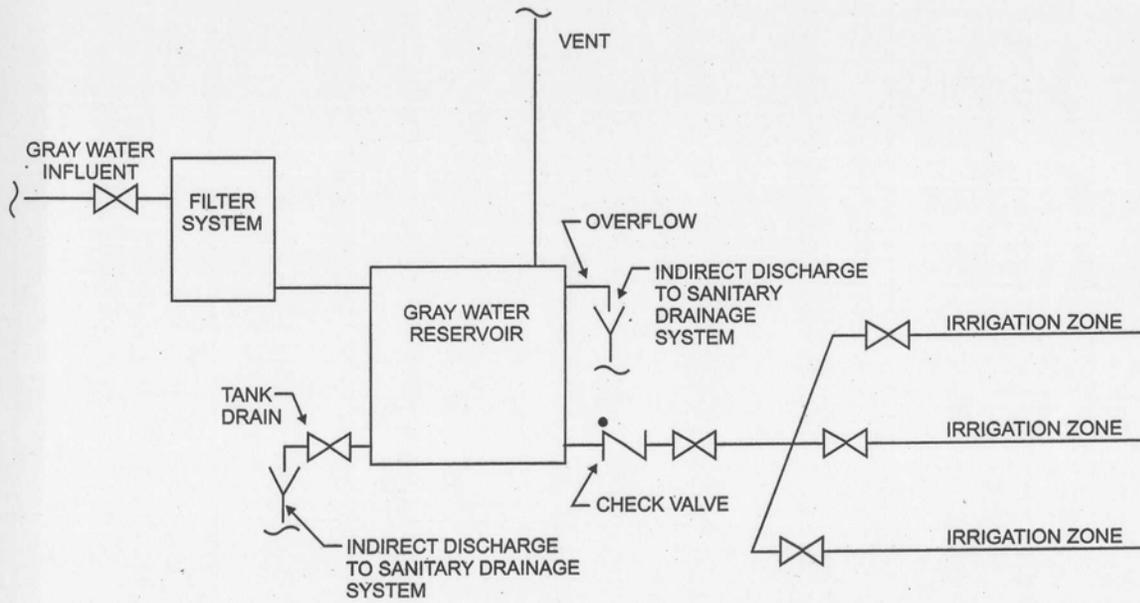


FIGURE 1  
GRAY WATER RECYCLING SYSTEM FOR SUBSURFACE LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION

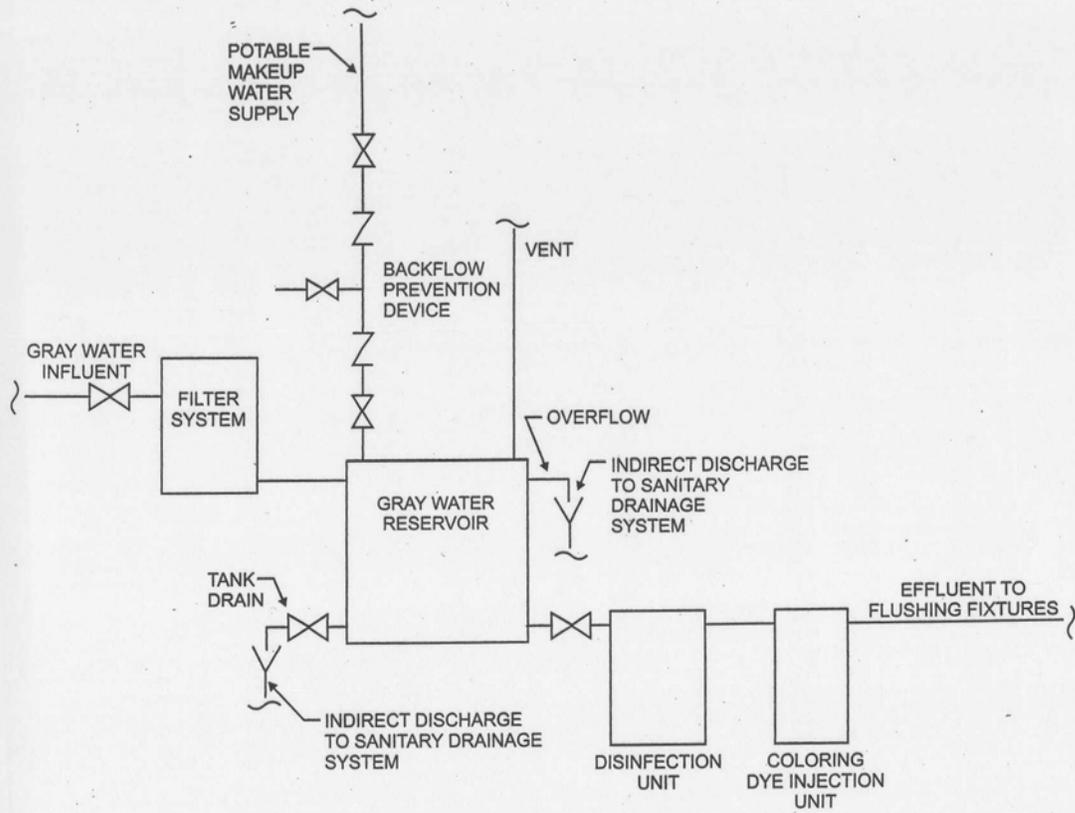


FIGURE 2  
GRAY WATER RECYCLING SYSTEM FOR FLUSHING WATER CLOSETS AND URINALS