



GRAYWATER REQUIREMENTS FOR WATER SERVICE

(District Ordinance Code Section 13.02.021(8))

General Requirements

Your project (residential or commercial) may be subject to Marin Water's graywater ordinance ("Ordinance") if:

- It requires a new water service from Marin Water, or
- It is already connected to Marin Water's water system but requires an enlarged water service from Marin Water due to a "substantial remodel," as defined by Marin County Code.

If your project meets either of these conditions, you will be required to comply with Marin Water's Ordinance and completion of a Graywater Compliance Form will be required as a part of an application package. This compliance form is contained within the [Project Information Form](#).

Types of Graywater Systems

For projects subject to the ordinance, the California Plumbing Code classifies graywater systems into four (4) types:

- Laundry-to-Landscape (L2L) – A system that utilizes clothes washer discharge water for landscape irrigation.
- Simple System – A system with a discharge of 250 gallons per day or less. A Notification Form and installation of a Marin Water-approved backflow assembly is required.
- Complex System – A system with a discharge greater than 250 gallons per day. A construction permit and installation of a Marin Water-approved backflow assembly is required.
- Graywater stub-out – This allows distribution piping to be connected at a later date.

Graywater Review and Approval Process

Upon Marin Water receiving notification of your proposed project by the local planning or building agency, the District will determine if compliance with the Ordinance is required.

- For more information on graywater systems, please visit:
<https://www.marinwater.org/WaterSmartGardening>

This requirement supports Marin Water's ongoing efforts to reduce water demand. For questions please call the Water Efficiency Department at 415-945-1520.

Marin Water Graywater Code

Marin Water Code Section 13.02.021(8) Graywater Systems states:

“All applicants requesting a water service for a new residential or commercial structure which requires the installation of a new service, and all applicants requesting an enlarged water service for a "substantial remodel" to an existing residential or commercial structure as that term is defined under Marin County Code Section 19.04.063 or any successor ordinance shall install a graywater recycling system to reuse the maximum practicable amount of graywater on site. Installation and operation of all graywater systems shall comply with all rules and regulations of the District, the local jurisdiction having zoning authority over the parcel and the California Plumbing and CALGreen Code.”

Potential Examples of Graywater Non-Feasibility

Marin Water has deemed some site conditions as “Not-Feasible” for a graywater system. The following examples outline specific site conditions that may support a not-feasible determination:

- Soil testing performed by accredited independent testing agency has determined the soil at the site is unable to absorb the graywater at an adequate rate to prevent run-off or pooling based on graywater system designs allowed in California Plumbing or CALGreen Codes.
- Federal or State laws prohibit the use of graywater due to site conditions. Rules of home owner associations, property owner associations, cooperatives, subdivisions and neighborhood organizations shall not be deemed adequate evidence in determining graywater system feasibility.
- Wastewater drain lines of an existing home or building are encased in a concrete slab foundation and the substantial remodel does not include new wastewater drain lines to be installed.

An Applicant shall submit documentation for review by Marin Water if the site conditions preclude the use of graywater. Marin Water shall have sole authority in determining the adequacy and technical merit of submitted documentation.