

General Permit BMPs: Follow these best management practices to comply with Arizona's rules for gray water use (See [A.A.C. R18-9-D701](#)):

- You may use gray water for household gardening, composting, or landscape watering, but use it in a way that it does not run off your own property. Gray water use is prohibited for any other purpose.
- Avoid human contact with gray water, or soil irrigated with gray water.
- Do not water any plants that produce food, except trees and shrubs with edible portions that gray water does not touch.
- Gray water cannot contain hazardous chemicals such as antifreeze, mothballs, or solvents. Do not include wash water from greasy or oily rags in your gray water.
- Gray water from washing diapers or other infectious garments must be discharged to a residential sewer or other wastewater facility.
- Minimize standing water using methods to avoid overwatering, such as mulch cover, and using practices to increase filtration.
- Should a blockage, backup, or overload occur, gray water use must cease until the problem is corrected. To avoid such a backup, consider using system components to reduce blockage and extend the system's lifetime.
- Cover, seal and secure any surge tanks to restrict access by small rodents and to control disease carrying insects such as mosquitoes. Also, minimize the time water is held in surge tanks to avoid anaerobic conditions and odor.
- When determining the location for your gray water application, remember that it cannot drain to a floodway (e.g. wash).
- Gray water may only be used in locations where groundwater is at least five feet below the surface throughout the year.
- If you have a septic or other on-site wastewater disposal system for black water, your gray water use must not change that system's design requirements for capacity and reserve areas.
- Label pipes carrying gray water under pressure to eliminate confusion between gray water and drinking water pipes.
- Use only flood or drip watering methods. Spraying gray water is prohibited.