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## DIVISION 5. - GRAYWATER SYSTEMS

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### **Sec. 86.166. - General requirements.**

- (a) Graywater is defined as wastewater from:
- (1) Showers;
  - (2) Bathtubs;
  - (3) Hand washing lavatories;
  - (4) Sinks not used for disposal of hazardous or toxic ingredients;
  - (5) Sinks not used for food preparation or disposal; and
  - (6) Clothes-washing machines.
- (b) Graywater does not include wastewater from the washing of material, including diapers, soiled with human excreta or wastewater that has come into contact with toilet waste.
- (c) Builders of private residences:
- (1) Are encouraged to install dedicated graywater plumbing in new residences in a manner that provides the capacity to collect graywater from all allowable sources; and
  - (2) Are encouraged to design and install a subsurface graywater system around the foundation of new housing to minimize foundation movement or cracking.
- (d) Design, construction, and operation of a graywater system, including storage and disposal systems, must comply with 30 TAC §210 Subchapter F, this division and requirements of the city's adopted plumbing code.
- (e) All graywater systems must be reviewed and approved by the chief building official, and permitted through the city's permit center prior to installation.

*(Ord. No. 2010-39, § 1, 8-3-10)*

### **Sec. 86.167. - Residential use of graywater.**

- (a) A residential graywater system may only be used:
- (1) Around the foundation of new housing to minimize foundation movement or cracking;
  - (2) For gardening;
  - (3) For composting; or
  - (4) For landscaping at the private residence.
- (b) The graywater system must not create a nuisance or damage the quality of surface water or groundwater.
- (c) Residential use of graywater must comply with the following:
- (1) Graywater usage is limited to less than 400 gallons each day;
  - (2) The graywater originates from the private residence on which it is being used;
  - (3) The graywater system is designed to ensure that 100 percent of the graywater will be diverted to the City of San Marcos wastewater collection system or an approved on-site sewage facility (OSSF) during periods of non-use of the graywater system and the discharge from the graywater system must enter the wastewater collection system through an approved backflow prevention device;
  - (4) The graywater is stored in tanks and the tanks:
    - a. Are clearly labeled as nonpotable water;
    - b. Must restrict access, especially to children;

- c. Eliminate habitat for mosquitoes and other vectors;
  - d. Are readily accessible for cleaning and maintenance and are able to be cleaned;
  - e. Meet the structural requirements of 30 TAC § 210.25(i) (relating to Special Design Criteria for Reclaimed Water Systems); and
  - f. Have a lint trap installed inline prior to the tank.
- (5) The graywater system uses piping that meets the piping requirement of 30 TAC § 210.25;
  - (6) The graywater is applied at a rate that:
    - a. Will not result in ponding or pooling; or
    - b. Will not cause runoff across the property lines or onto any paved surface; and
  - (7) The graywater is not disposed of using a spray distribution system.
- (d) The installer of the graywater system must advise the owner of basic operating and maintenance procedures including any effects it may have on an OSSF system if the residence is so equipped.
  - (e) Homeowners who have been disposing wastewater from residential clothes-washing machines, otherwise known as laundry graywater, directly onto the ground prior to January 6, 2005, may continue disposing under the following conditions:
    - (1) The disposal area must not create a public health nuisance.
    - (2) Surface ponding must not occur in the disposal area.
    - (3) The disposal area must support plant growth or be sodded with vegetative cover.
    - (4) The disposal area must have limited access and use by residents and pets.
    - (5) Laundry graywater that has been in contact with human or animal waste must not be disposed onto the ground surface.
    - (6) Laundry graywater must not be disposed to an area where the soil is wet.
    - (7) A lint trap must be affixed to the end of the discharge line.

(Ord. No. 2010-39, § 1, 8-3-10)

### **Sec. 86.168. - Industrial, commercial, or institutional use of graywater.**

- (a) Graywater systems used for industrial, commercial, or institutional purposes must be designed to ensure that 100 per cent of the graywater will be diverted to the City of San Marcos wastewater collection system or an approved on-site sewage facility during periods of non-use of the graywater system. The discharge from the graywater system must enter the wastewater collection system through an approved backflow prevention device.
- (b) All graywater systems used for process water must be reviewed, approved and permitted by the city prior to installation.
- (c) An industrial, commercial, or institutional graywater system may only be used for the following activities:
  - (1) *Process water.* Graywater used for industrial, commercial, or institutional purposes must be treated to a standard that allows the graywater to be used in operational processes.
  - (2) *Landscape maintenance.* If graywater is used for landscape maintenance, the graywater must meet the following standards.
    - a. If the graywater will be applied in areas where the public may come into contact with the graywater, the graywater must meet the following standards:
      - 1. Fecal coliform, 20 colony forming units (CFU)/100 milliliters (ml), geometric mean; or
      - 2. Fecal coliform (not to exceed), 75 CFU/100 ml, single grab sample.
    - b. If the graywater will be applied in areas where the public is not present during the time when irrigation activities occur or disposed of for other uses where the public would not come into contact with the graywater, the graywater must meet the following standards:
      - 1. Fecal coliform, 200 CFU/100 ml, geometric mean; or
      - 2. Fecal coliform (not to exceed), 800 CFU/100 ml, single grab sample.
  - (3) *Dust control.* If graywater is used for dust control, the graywater must meet the standards in paragraph (2)b. of this subsection.
  - (4) *Toilet flushing.* If graywater is used for toilet flushing:
    - a. The fecal coliform levels must meet the limits in paragraph (2)a. of this subsection; and
    - b. All exposed piping and piping carrying graywater within a building must be either purple pipe or painted purple; all buried piping installed after the effective date of these rules must be either manufactured in purple, painted purple, taped with purple metallic tape, or bagged in purple; and all exposed piping must be stenciled in white with a warning reading "NON-POTABLE WATER."
  - (5) *Other uses.* If graywater is used for other similar activities where the potential for unintentional human exposure may occur, the graywater must meet the fecal coliform limits in paragraph (2)a. of this subsection.

- (d) Graywater used for industrial, commercial, or institutional purposes must be monitored for fecal coliform at least monthly in areas where the public may come into contact with graywater and the records must be maintained at the site. These records must be readily available for inspection by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and/or the city for a minimum period of five years.

*(Ord. No. 2010-39, § 1, 8-3-10)*

**Sec. 86.169. - Violations.**

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person or entity to intentionally, knowingly, recklessly discharge graywater in violation of the requirements of this division.
- (b) In addition to any remedies authorized under [section 1.015](#) of this Code, or any successor provision, the city may seek civil penalties and any other legal or equitable relief for violations of this division available under common law, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code, [Ch. 54](#), or any other applicable city, state or federal code or statute.
- (c) To the extent allowed by law, the municipal court shall have concurrent jurisdiction over any civil enforcement for violations of this division.
- (d) Except as otherwise prohibited by applicable laws, the city may suspend or terminate the water service to a customer of the city water system that is in violation of this division.

*(Ord. No. 2010-39, § 1, 8-3-10)*

**Secs. 86.170—86.175. - Reserved.**