

GRAYWATER:

NONRESIDENTIAL BUILDING STANDARDS FOR UNTREATED, UNCONTAMINATED WASTEWATER

Recent legislation in SB 518 requires that the CBSC develop and propose regulations for nonresidential graywater building standards for the next triennial adoption cycle, which has a projected start in June, 2012 and an effective date of January 1, 2014. The first of several 'interested party' meetings took place on Monday, September 12, 2011. Private sector, environmental health and state agency representatives including the Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Water Resources, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development as well as the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials contributed to the session.

CBSC leads, Jane Taylor, Senior Architect and Enrique Rodriguez, Associate Construction Analyst, presented a preliminary action plan as a starting point for the discussion. Assurance of water quality; building standards for the construction, installation, and alteration of graywater systems; consideration of existing research; and the impact on human health will be important aspects of developing graywater provisions for the State of California. Research concerning graywater use in other jurisdictions, states and countries will initially include Arizona, Texas, Australia and Israel. Attendees raised questions concerning a water quality standard for the state and requisite certifications, as well as treatment standards for indoor use of graywater and its potential for irrigation.

SB 518 directs CBSC to utilize Chapter 16 of the 2012 Uniform Plumbing Code as a basis for development of the new proposed standards. Graywater is currently defined in the Health & Safety Code §17922.12 as follows:

For the purposes of this section, "graywater" means untreated wastewater that has not been contaminated by any toilet discharge,

*has not been affected by infectious, contaminated, or unhealthy bodily wastes, and does not present a threat from contamination by unhealthful processing, manufacturing, or operating wastes.
"Graywater" includes wastewater from bathtubs, showers, bathroom washbasins, clothes washing machines, and laundry tubs, but does not include wastewater from kitchen sinks or dishwashers.*

If you would like to participate in or follow the development of the graywater standards for the State of California please send your name and email address to cbsc@dgs.ca.gov. You will be notified of future interested party meetings along with development updates.