Greywater Recycling

Owners in areas with high water costs, with water restrictions or with high irrigation needs may wish to examine opportunities for reusing wastewater. This is often referred to as Greywater recycling. **Greywater** is non-industrial wastewater generated from domestic processes such as dish washing, laundry and bathing. Greywater comprises 50-80% of residential wastewater. Greywater comprises wastewater generated from all of the house's sanitation equipment except for the toilet. Greywater is distinct from wastewater from toilets (blackwater) in the amount and composition of its chemical and biological contaminants. Greywater gets its name from its cloudy appearance and from its status as being neither fresh (white water from groundwater or potable water), nor heavily polluted (blackwater).

In recent years concerns over dwindling reserves of groundwater and overloaded or costly sewage treatment plants has generated much interest in the reuse or recycling of greywater for lawn or plantings irrigation. Concerns over potential health and environmental risks means that many jurisdictions demand such intensive treatment systems for legal reuse of greywater that the commercial cost is higher than for fresh water. Despite these obstacles, greywater is often reused for irrigation. In droughtzones or areas hit by hose pipe bans (irrigation restrictions) greywater can be an important resource, either reused through piping modifications or harvested informally by manual bucketing.

Additional information at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greywater