

Amendments to 20.7.3, NMAC
Liquid Waste Disposal Regulations for Graywater
Adopted by the N.M. Environmental Improvement Board
on December 16, 2003

TITLE 20 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
CHAPTER 7 WASTE WATER AND WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES
PART 3 LIQUID WASTE DISPOSAL

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20.7.3.7 DEFINITIONS: As used in this Part [20.7.3 NMAC]:

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J. "black[-]water" means waste from a liquid flushing toilet, urinal [~~or garbage disposal~~], kitchen sinks, dishwashers or laundry water from the washing of material soiled with human excreta, such as diapers;

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AF. ~~["greywater" means water carried waste from kitchen (excluding garbage disposal) and bathroom sinks, wet bar sinks, showers, bathtubs and washing machines. Greywater does not include water carried wastes from kitchen sinks equipped with a garbage disposal, utility sinks, any hazardous materials, or laundry water from the washing of material soiled with human excreta]~~ "graywater" means untreated household wastewater that has not come in contact with toilet waste and includes wastewater from bathtubs, showers, washbasins, clothes washing machines and laundry tubs, but does not include wastewater from kitchen sinks or dishwashers or laundry water from the washing of material soiled with human excreta, such as diapers;

AO. "liquid waste" means gr[e]ay[]water or blackwater which may contain without limitation human excreta and water carried waste from typical residential plumbing fixtures and activities, including, but not limited to, wastes from toilets, sinks, showers, baths clothes- and dish-washing machines, and floor drains. Specifically excluded from the definition of liquid waste are commercial process wastewaters, roof drainage, mine or mill tailings or wastes, and wastes containing high concentrations of stabilizing or deodorizing agents;

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20.7.3.200 PROCEDURES:

A. Liquid Waste System Permits:

(1) No person shall install or have installed a new on-site liquid waste system or modify or have modified an existing on-site liquid waste system, unless that person obtains a permit issued by the Department prior to construction of such installation or modification.

(a) No person shall construct or modify a dwelling on, or transport a dwelling onto, a lot for which an on-site liquid waste system is required unless the Department

has issued an on-site liquid waste system permit prior to such construction, modification, or transportation.

(b) No person shall construct, install, repair or modify an on-site liquid waste system unless that person holds a valid contractors license issued by the New Mexico Construction Industries Division, except that a single family residential property owner may construct, install, repair or modify permitted septic tanks and conventional trench or bed disposal fields on his or her own property after obtaining a permit without such a license.

(c) A permit is not required for graywater discharges or for systems designed for the discharge of graywater that meet the requirements of 20.7.3.300.J.

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20.7.3.300 STANDARDS:

A. General Requirements:

(1) No person shall discharge untreated liquid waste except into a permitted enclosed system, a permitted liquid waste treatment unit, or a public sewer system, except for discharges of graywater pursuant to 20.7.3.300.J. No person shall discharge liquid waste or effluent into a cesspool or effluent disposal well. A privy may be used for the disposal of human excreta and toilet paper, but not for the disposal of other liquid wastes.

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J. Graywater Discharges:

(1) Graywater discharge of less than 250 gallons per day of private residential graywater originating from a residence for the resident's household flower gardening, composting or landscaping irrigation shall be allowed if:

(a) a constructed graywater distribution system provides for overflow into the sewer system or on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system;

(b) a graywater storage tank is covered to restrict access and to eliminate habitat for mosquitos or other vectors;

(c) a graywater system is sited outside of a floodway;

(d) graywater is vertically separated at least five feet above the ground water table;

(e) graywater pressure piping is clearly identified as a nonpotable water conduit;

(f) graywater is used on the site where it is generated and does not run off the property lines;

(g) graywater is discharged in a manner that minimizes the potential for contact with people or domestic pets;

(h) ponding is prohibited, discharge of graywater is managed to minimize standing water on the surface and to ensure that the hydraulic capacity of the soil is not exceeded;

(i) graywater is not sprayed;

(j) graywater is not discharged to a watercourse;

(k) graywater use within municipalities or counties complies with all applicable municipal or county ordinances enacted pursuant to Chapter 3, Article 53 NMSA 1978;

(l) graywater is not stored longer than 24 hours before being discharged;

- (m) graywater use for purposes other than irrigation or composting is prohibited, unless a permit for such use is issued by the Department;
- (n) graywater is not used to irrigate food plants except for fruit and nut trees;
- (o) graywater is discharged to a mulched surface area or to an underground irrigation system;
- (p) graywater is not discharged closer than 100 feet to a watercourse or private domestic well, or closer than 200 feet to a public water supply well;
- (q) graywater does not create a public nuisance;
- (r) for residential units using an on-site liquid waste system for blackwater treatment and disposal, the use of a graywater system does not change the design, capacity, or absorption area requirements for the on-site liquid waste system at the residential unit, and the on-site liquid waste system is designed and sized to handle the combined blackwater and graywater flow if the graywater system fails or is not fully used; and
- (s) graywater does not contain hazardous chemicals derived from activities such as cleaning car parts, washing greasy or oily rags, or disposing of waste solutions from home photo labs or similar hobbyist or home occupational activities.

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