

GWA Forum: Val Little: 5.28.10

Jon Bauer introduces the Greywater Alliance

Presentation

Laura Allen: Updates on permitting process in Oakland; 1st branched drain permitted system. and notes from last meeting are available on Greywateralliance.org

Eric Olson: City of Berkeley; first permitted system for indoor use of greywater in Berkeley and Alameda County; more info on Graywater Alliance site.

General Introductions

Willie Lord: Greywater: Laundry to Landscape; System Installer Presentation

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- Discuss desired use with homeowner
- Design
- Installation
- Tuning up the Greywater System

Only system permit exempt in Chpt 16 is laundry to landscape.

Steps:

- Calculate water use for the code; calculate by bedrooms in the home, extra occupants, 15 gallons a day per occupant.
- Identify the soil type.
- Daily water use divided by gallons of water that can infiltrate into this soil in a 24 hour period. This determines the square footage of the mulch basin.
- Plumbing: 3 way valve; labeled
- Call 811.org

- Start digging mulch basins; 1-1.5 feet from property lines.
- Irrigation Phase (He uses blue lock pipes)
 - Don't overtax washing machine pump
 - High density polyethylene pipe 1"
 - Cut down size of tubing to ½ "
 - Outlets 2" below mulch basin
 - Create space between outlet and mulch to prevent plant roots from growing into outlet. Also helps water spread
 - Test system. Go ahead and run the actual laundry system.
 - Test for leaks on both sides of 3way valve
 - Check distribution is meeting desired effect
 - Ball valve
 - Client orientation
 - Use certain type of detergent: salt and boron free
 - No dirty diapers or anything with feces
 - No heavy chemicals in laundry
 - System manual: can transfer to other tenants or home owners. Manual always stays with greywater system.

Questions:

- What about runoff from driveways; he explains that this is not greywater
- List of workable detergents; can find them on Greywateraction.org
- Put in any type of lint or other filter and where; No. A filter in a system like this would clog it up. Just clear it off the mulch itself.
- Good source for 3way valves: cleanwater components; miran plumbing supply; urban farmers; ashby plumbing
- What about the air valve? Is it in the code?; It's not in the code, but it's good code. It keeps water from being sucked back into the system. Studer vents. This isn't tied into the household plumbing. Not connected by air seal, just going into a laundry sink.

- What is the average cost for a system; Our average cost is \$1200. In part because we are a general contractor and have a number of parts that we sub out.

Val Little: Water Caasa; research Specialist at Univ of AZ

See Presentation