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## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH County of Riverside

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INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN NO. 106-15-EPO

ENVIRONMENTAL OVERSIGHT AND PROTECTION DIVISION

### GRAYWATER SYSTEMS

#### What is Graywater?

Graywater is wastewater from laundry machines, showers, bathtubs, and bathroom sinks. Graywater does NOT include water from toilets, dishwashers, or kitchen sinks.

#### Laundry to Landscape

Graywater from laundry machines can be routed to irrigate landscaping which saves water and also reduces the input into septic systems, potentially preventing failures. This is referred to as a 'Laundry to Landscape System.' The laundry to landscape system is a basic system that does not require any permits to install. It routes the discharge water from the machine and distributes it to your landscaping for subsurface irrigation. Subsurface irrigation helps to reduce evaporation and eliminates surface pooling which could lead to mosquito breeding, odors, or other health hazards. This type of system is low cost, simple to install and requires little maintenance.

#### Laundry to Landscape System Requirements (Also called clothes washer system or single fixture system)

- May only utilize a single domestic clothes washing machine in a one or two family dwelling.
- The system must include a clearly labeled and readily accessible diversion valve that will allow the graywater to be diverted back to the sanitary sewer or septic tank if needed.
- The graywater must be diverted to sewer or septic under the following conditions:
  - The discharge is from a load that included diapers and/or similarly soiled or infectious linens and garments.
  - The discharge is from the load used to wash oily greasy rags, or any type of chemical cleaners.
  - During heavy rains or periods of saturated soil conditions.
- All graywater must be contained within the property boundaries.
- The system must meet all site and waterway setback requirements.
- The system must be subsurface, covered by a minimum of 2 inches of rock, mulch, soil or other approved material so as to minimize human contact and contact with domestic pets.
- Ponding or runoff is prohibited and shall be considered a nuisance.
- The system must not be used to irrigate root crops or other edible parts of a plant that may touch the soil.
- The system may not alter existing plumbing or other systems.
- Irrigation zone should be downhill from the laundry machine.
- The system must be clearly labeled.

Graywater systems which exceed the single fixture system described above may require design review and approval by the Department of Environmental Health prior to installation. Contact 951-955-8980 for information on other graywater systems.

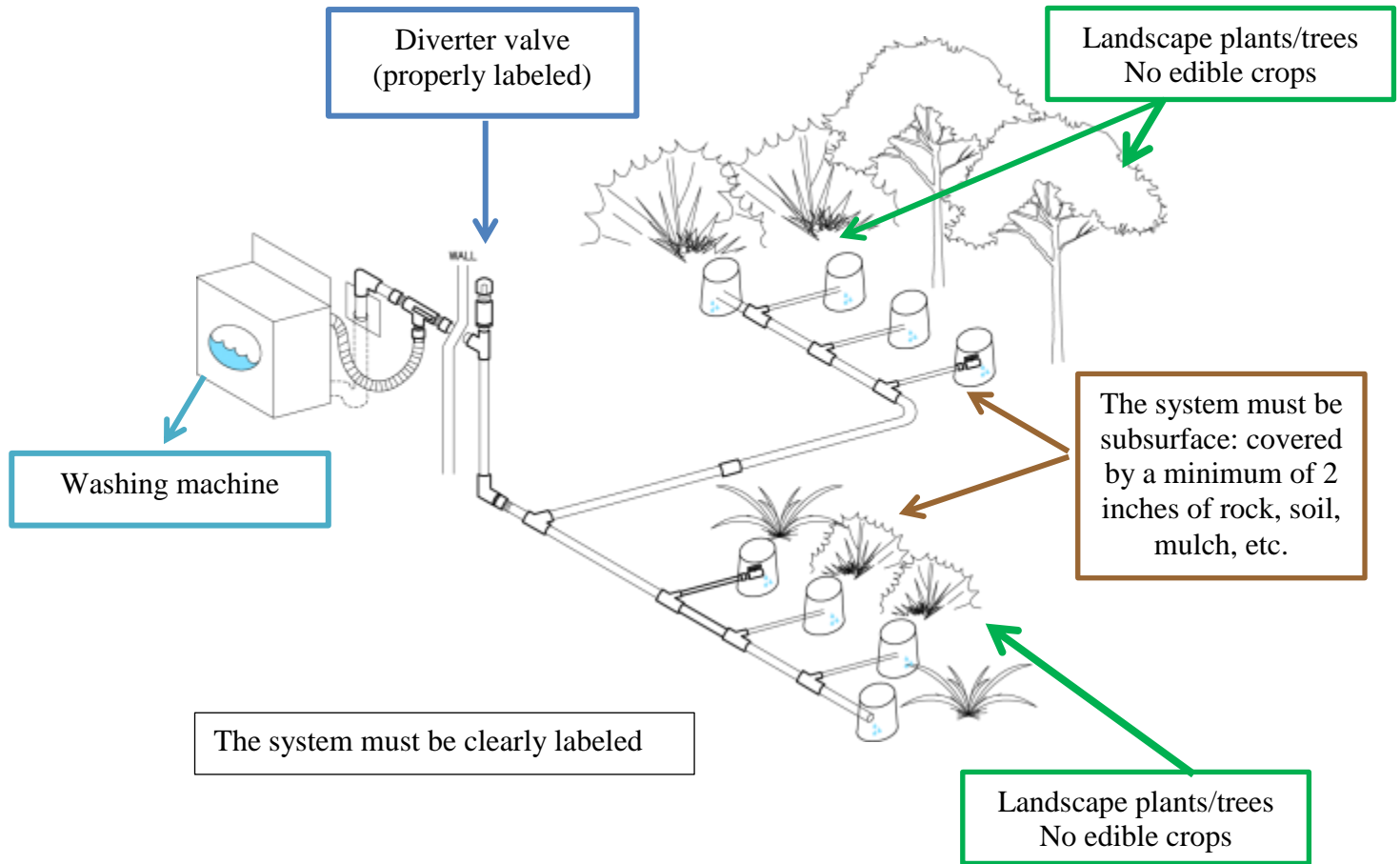
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**OFFICES IN: RIVERSIDE, BLYTHE, CORONA, HEMET, INDIO, MURRIETA AND PALM SPRINGS**

**For more information call (888) 722-4234**

**Department Web Site – [www.rivcoeh.org](http://www.rivcoeh.org)**

## Example of Graywater system



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