

Laundry to Landscape (L2L) Greywater Kit Frequently Asked Questions



How do I know if an L2L system will work at my house?

The key is access to your washer. If your washer is already outdoors, you're in luck! This is the most straightforward installation of both the Diversion and Distribution kits. If your washer is located in a room along a wall to the outside, you may also be able to install relatively easily! You can discuss your specific situation with our staff to determine the best possible installation method. If your washer room is located in the middle of your house (not near a wall to the outside), plumbing may be too costly for an L2L system. However, you can still reach out to us with other potential greywater ideas!

How many plants can I support with my L2L system?

Front loading washers, including high-efficiency ones, will use 15-20 gallons per load. Top loading washers will use 30-40 gallons per load. We encourage pairing your greywater with existing fruit trees, shade trees, or even native edible shrubs that can benefit from that water and reduce your need to irrigate with municipal groundwater. For some perspective, a front loading washer with 3 loads per week provides less than half of what a typical citrus tree needs.

L2L systems need to have 6 to 10 emitting outlets to accommodate your washer pump. We recommend using 1 to 3 outlets per plant. This means you can offset irrigation needs for 2 to 10 plants from your washer! Our kit typically comes with connections for 8 emitters, but you can request more.

Do I need to use a special detergent?

Many name-brand detergents have chemicals that are not ideal to come into contact with plants. Detergents labeled as eco friendly may remove harmful chemicals, but are often still very high in sodium based ingredients (salts!). Greywater from your laundry machine will be higher in salt than rainwater and potable water and those salts can accumulate in soil around the areas you irrigate. Some plants can tolerate higher salt levels than others, so look into your plant's tolerance when planning your setup. It's a good practice to irrigate parts of your landscape with greywater that are also collecting rainwater in basins. Rainwater will collect in basins and flush salts that build up in the soils deeper than the plant root zones. Here are some detergents worth checking out!

[Oasis](#) or Biopac - Both are detergents designed for greywater use.

[Purturegent](#) - Also marketed as a greywater compatible detergent.

[Dilutable Laundry Bar](#) - Uses soap nuts.

Other detergents we have heard people have success with are - ECOS, and Vaska.

What's included in an L2L kit?

Diversion kit Include parts to allow you to choose between sending your water to the sewer (what it's probably doing right now) and another location. It includes a 3 way brass valve, anti-siphon vent (aka an "air admittance valve") to prevent a continuous siphon from happening due to your washer's pre-existing pump, straps to attach to your wall and 1" schedule 40 PVC pipe and fittings. We use 1" PVC to provide a clean look and to ensure you are not putting strain on your washing machine with pipes that are too small or large.

Distribution Kit

The Distribution kit is the irrigation side of the system and allow you to send greywater to individual plants in your landscape. We have parts to convert from 1" PVC (diversion kit) to 1" poly as the main pipe carrying the water and branch off to ½" poly and ½" ball valve emitters. Poly will degrade from UV light, so consider covering, painting, or burying your tubing or pipe for longevity. Outdoor kits also include a "clean out" which allows you to hook up a hose and flush out any potential clogs in the system. We provide materials for 8 sets of branches/ emitters.

What other tools and materials would I need to install myself?

Materials

- Primer for PVC
- Glue for PVC
- Screws for anchoring hole straps into wall (type depends on what you are anchoring into)
- Ribbed Plastic Anchors
- Sikaflex/caulk for sealing any holes drilled into the wall for PVC to travel through
- Two ¼ inch spacers (placed under the 2 whole straps to provide additional connection and support to plastic anchors and screws OR clamp that can bend the 1 inch 2-hole straps to better fit around PVC)

Tools

- Impact Driver
- Bit for pre drilling holes in the wall (may need different bits for different wall materials)
- Core drill for drilling hole in wall for PVC (search for rental or contact our staff)
- Hacksaw or PVC cutting device
- Pruning shears or poly tubing cutting device
- Level

Do I need both the Diversion and Distribution kit?

We strongly recommend including all of the major components in each of these kits (diversion tee; anti-siphon vent; clean out; etc.) and we have strived to create as simple, affordable and reliable a system as possible. You can also hire WMG staff to install the Diversion/Indoor plumbing portion (the more technical of the two), then purchase a Distribution/Outdoor kit and finish the system yourself!

Further, we host a “How to Install Your Own L2L System” class (check out our [class schedule](#) for the next one!). This 1.5-hour class will go through the specifics of installation and allow for group discussion of common setbacks.

If you are a Tucson Water or Metro Water customer you may be eligible for a rebate for these costs. In order to be eligible for a rebate with Tucson Water, you must attend a separate [Greywater Rebate class](#). See our schedule for upcoming rebate classes.