

Tuesday 13th August 2024

St Ann's – Greywater Harvesting Technical Note

The cons of implementing a greywater system into the scheme are as follows;

The cost of a grey water system can be expensive initially, depending on the requirements and designs i.e. dual plumbing is required to accommodate, re-use and source separation of greywater and blackwater, additional builders work holes, separate tanks/pumps, plant space etc.

- Greywater needs to be handled correctly. The problem is the need to store contaminated water that may contain bacteria which will start to breed and smell if not treated properly. So, you need to treat it, which would normally involve chemical treatment, filtering or sterilising with ultraviolet light.
- Health risks - greywater is made up of harmful chemicals such as fats, oils, hair, cleansers etc. These dangerous chemicals can cause diseases if ingested.
- Environmental risks are not easily evaluated.
- The re-use of a greywater system can diminish the flow of sewage in the area. This is because less wastewater is released in the sewage system.
- If the grey water is not filtered properly, the harmful chemicals in the wastewater can cause disease and contamination.
- It is not advisable to store the grey water for more than 24 hours, which can cause issues if the water is being re-used for irrigation purposes.
- Soil structure can be damaged by the alkaline condition caused by the cleaning agents which contains sodium salts present in the grey water.
- Greywater treatment systems have bulky tanks that need space for installation either below or above ground with filters and membranes that often get dirty and clogged, so need regular cleaning and maintenance which means ongoing costs. Most also add chemicals to the water treatment process, making it less eco-friendly.

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