

# GREYWATER TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

## Laundry to Landscape Systems

Basic solutions to common problems found in L2L greywater systems

### **No water in greywater pits.**

- Make sure three-way valve has been set to run to greywater line
- Check for breaks and leaks in piping
- Look for dips in piping
  - o Dips can lead to clogging, make sure pipe is properly hung

### **Laundry machine has stopped running or leaks.**

- Check System design and size, incorrect design can lead to broken pumps and blown door seals
  - o Laundry machines can only push uphill a maximum of 8' head (less when distances are long). Make sure your system design isn't trying to push too high up.
  - o Laundry machine pumps shouldn't try to push water out more than 100'. Trying to go farther drastically reduces the life of a pump.

### **Why is there scummy buildup in the mulch shields?**

- Buildup in greywater pits generally happens when the wrong cleaning products are used. Make sure your soaps and detergents are greywater safe.
- If soaps are good, it may just be time to clean out your mulch shields. You will need to clean these out periodically as sediments build up and clog your mulch filter.

### **Why are my greywater basins overflowing?**

- This, too, can be caused by bad system design or blocked up mulch shields.
  - o It is important dig your greywater basins correctly. Too small or too shallow will cause pooling which is both illegal and a hazard to public health.
  - o It is equally important to choose the correct number and type of plants.
    - Too few plants, or plants that don't require much water, can cause greywater systems to fail. Laundry to Landscape greywater systems are designed utilize your planting's ability to uptake water. If your plants don't require much water or there are too few, your system won't work.
- Periodically, you will need to replace your mulch. Over time your bark will become saturated with sediments and start to break down, turning into compost. This may be dug out and used to fertilize your plants. Replace with new bark in mulch ring, taking care to clear mulch shield of roots. A large mat of roots can also clog your system and cause it to overflow.