

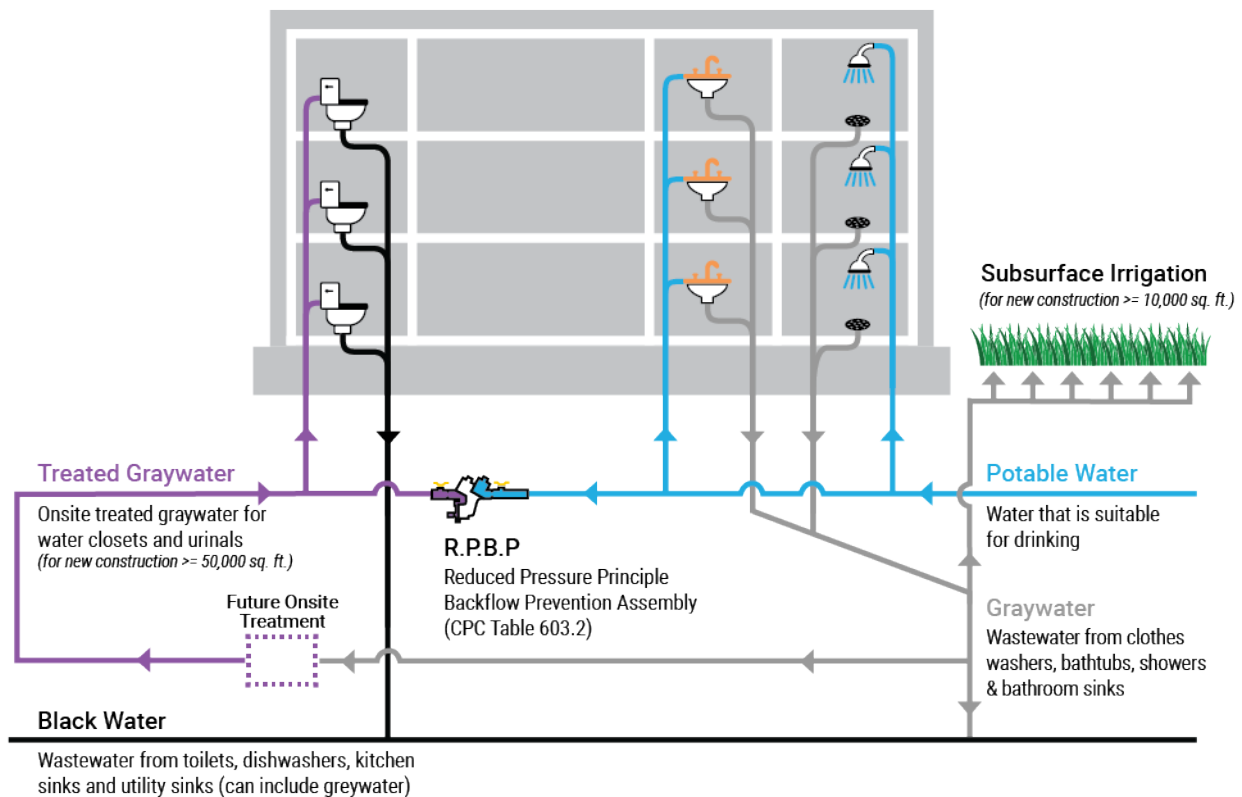
Sacramento Alternate Water Systems Ordinance (Ord. No. 2022-0031)

What is the Alternate Water Systems Ordinance?

The Alternate Water Systems (AWS) Ordinance was adopted by City Council on **December 13, 2022**.

The AWS Ordinance outlines new graywater piping requirements for certain new commercial non-residential buildings that will apply to building permit applications filed on or after **July 1, 2023**.

This sheet provides an overview of requirements and exceptions to help determine if your project is subject to the AWS Ordinance.



Overview of Building Compliance Requirements and Exceptions

Building Size	Requirements
9,999 sq. ft. or smaller	No additional alternate water system requirements
New construction 10,000 sq. ft. or larger	Graywater system for subsurface irrigation required
New construction 50,000 sq. ft. or larger	Graywater system for subsurface irrigation AND separate additional piping system that could be used for onsite treated nonpotable graywater system for water closets and urinals

Why Install Graywater Systems?

Incorporating graywater systems in new construction helps make Sacramento's water supplies more sustainable.

Graywater is untreated wastewater from bathtubs, showers, bathroom washbasins, and clothes washing machines. It does not include blackwater – wastewater from kitchen sinks, dishwashers, or toilets.

Graywater is safe for use in irrigation and can be treated to supply water for toilets and urinals.

Graywater reduces dependence on potable water supplies and protects residents from water shortages. Incorporating graywater piping during construction is significantly less expensive than retrofitting.

Graywater Subsurface Irrigation for 10,000 Square Feet and Above

Graywater systems for subsurface irrigation will be required for new construction of 10,000 sq. ft. or more. Graywater systems will need to align with the California Plumbing Code (CPC) and the City's amendments. Graywater systems will not be required if site conditions do not meet the requirements as defined in the CPC (**CPC §1504**).

Additional Piping System for 50,000 Square Feet and Above

A separate piping system for graywater use will be required for new construction of 50,000 sq. ft. or more. The piping will supply water closets and urinals using onsite treated nonpotable graywater. If onsite treatment and reuse is not included, the graywater piping may be supplied by potable water with installation of a reduced pressure principle backflow prevention assembly (**CPC §1506.4**). Once onsite treatment of graywater is installed, installation of an air gap will be required to keep systems separate.

Exemptions from AWS Ordinance Requirements

- » Residential uses as defined in California Building Code Chapter 3: R-2, R-2.1, R-3, R-3.1, or R-4 occupancy classifications.
- » Additions and improvements, including tenant improvements, in existing buildings as defined in the California Building Code.
- » Child-care center¹, grocery store² to be constructed in a food desert³, mini storage, locker building⁴ or warehouse, distribution center⁵.

1. "Child-care center" as defined in California Building Code section 202.

2. "Grocery store" is a building or portion of a building with a California Building Code, Chapter 3, Section 309, Group M occupancy classification with more than 50% gross floor area devoted to the sale of non-taxable merchandise.

3. "Food desert" is a census tract that has (i) a median household income at or below 80% of the Sacramento County median household income and (ii) at least 33% of the census tract's population living more than one mile from an existing grocery store.

4. "Mini storage, locker building" is a building that offers individually secured units or surface space for the storage of goods, other than hazardous materials, for rental to the public, each of which is accessible only by the renter of the individual unit or space.

5. "Warehouse, distribution center" is a building used primarily for the long-term or short-term storage of goods and materials awaiting transportation or distribution, and not generally accessible to the general public. Incidental storage, repair, and maintenance of trucks associated with the distribution of goods from the warehouse are allowed.

