

9-4.602 Water Efficient and Bay Friendly Landscaping.

- (a) **Purpose.** This section establishes water efficient landscaping requirements for new and rehabilitated landscapes. The purpose of the requirements is to foster efficient water use and prevent water waste while ensuring high quality landscapes.
- (b) **Applicability.** This section shall apply to landscapes for public agency projects and private development projects with a landscape area equal to or greater than 500 square feet, as specified below.
- (c) **Requirements for Smaller Landscapes.** New landscaping equal to or greater than 500 square feet and less than 2,500 square feet of landscaped area shall comply with landscape requirements for smaller landscapes for planting, soil, mulch, grading, and irrigation, as specified by the Director. Any project with a landscape area less than 2,500 square feet that meets the landscape water requirement entirely with graywater, rainwater captured on site, or both, is subject only to the sections of the smaller landscapes requirement on “amendments and mulch” and “irrigation”.
- (d) **Requirements for Larger Landscapes.** New and rehabilitated landscapes with a landscape area equal to or greater than 2,500 square feet shall comply with landscape requirements for larger landscapes for planting, mulch, soil, grading, and irrigation, as specified by the Director.
- (e) **Water Waste, Stormwater Treatment and Recycled Water.** All projects subject to this section shall comply with all other requirements of the Emeryville Municipal Code, including Chapter 36 of Title 5 prohibiting irrigation water waste, Chapter 13 of Title 6 regarding stormwater treatment, and Section 9-4.603 of this article regarding recycled water.
- (f) **Exceptions.** This section shall not apply to the following:
 - (1) Registered historical sites.
 - (2) Ecological restoration projects that do not require a permanent irrigation system.
 - (3) Projects with a landscape area less than 500 square feet.

9-4.604 Water Reclaimed On Site.

- (a) **Purpose.** The purpose of this section is to set forth standards for systems that reuse water on site. Such systems help to conserve valuable water resources and are encouraged; provided that adequate safeguards are included to protect health.
- (b) **Rainwater Capture Systems.** Systems that capture and store precipitation from roof areas and other above-ground impervious surfaces for landscape irrigation and/or indoor water use must comply with all applicable codes and regulations. Systems using rain barrels of up to 100 gallons and no pumps do not require a permit. Systems using cisterns of over 100 gallons and/or

pumps require plumbing and/or electrical permits pursuant to the Emeryville Plumbing Code at Chapter [3](#) of Title [8](#) and/or the Emeryville Electrical Code at Chapter [4](#) of Title [8](#). Because the Emeryville Plumbing Code has no approved standards for rainwater capture systems, an alternative methods and materials request must accompany the permit application. Landscape projects that are less than 2,500 square feet in area, and meet the estimated total water use entirely with graywater, rainwater capture, or both, are subject only to the prescriptive irrigation portion and the amendments and mulch portion of the requirements referenced in Section 9-4.602 Water Efficient and Bay Friendly Landscaping.

(c) **Graywater Systems.** Systems that reuse domestic wastewater from plumbing fixtures such as showers, dishwashers, and clothes washers for toilet flushing and irrigation must comply with the requirements for graywater systems of the Emeryville Plumbing Code in Chapter [3](#) of Title [8](#). Landscape projects that are less than 2,500 square feet in area, and meet the estimated total water use entirely with graywater, rainwater capture, or both, are subject only to the prescriptive irrigation portion and the amendments and mulch portion of the requirements referenced in Section 9-4.602 Water Efficient and Bay Friendly Landscaping.

(d) **Blackwater.** Wastewater containing food, animal, or human waste, including but not limited to that from toilets and garbage disposals, shall not be reused on site but shall be discharged directly into the sanitary sewer system.

9-4.605 Definitions.

(c) “Graywater” means untreated waste water which has not come into contact with toilet, food, or chemical waste. Graywater includes used water from bathtubs, showers, bathroom sinks, clothes washing machines and laundry tubs. It does not include waste water from kitchen sinks, photo lab sinks, dishwashers or laundry water from soiled diapers.

(j) “Rehabilitated landscape” means any re-landscaping project in which the modified area was previously planted the modified landscape area is equal to or greater than 2,500 square feet.