



# Graywater Treatment Works and Use Prohibition

---

City Council Study Session – February 10, 2026

City Staff Representative:

Scott Olsen, Director of Utilities

Department:

Utilities



# Presentation Contents

- Background and Overview
- Graywater Treatment Works and Use Prohibitions
- Other Municipalities, Counties and Districts
- Staff Recommendation
- Questions



# Background and Overview

- Simply put, “Graywater is a portion of water used in a residential, commercial, or industrial building that may be collected after the first use and put to a second beneficial use.”
- An example is using bath water to water your garden.
- Not to be confused with recycled water systems at car washes or rain harvesting.

“Graywater” means that portion of wastewater that, before being treated or combined with other wastewater, is collected from fixtures within residential, commercial, or industrial buildings or institutional facilities for the purpose of being put to beneficial uses. Sources of graywater are limited to discharges from bathroom and laundry room sinks, bathtubs, showers, and laundry machines. Graywater does not include the wastewater from toilets, urinals, kitchen sinks, dishwashers, or nonlaundry utility sinks. – *Regulation 86*



## Background and Overview

- House Bill 24-1362, later codified in Colorado Revised Statutes, authorized graywater treatment works and the use of graywater throughout the state.
- The governing body of a municipality must opt out of allowing graywater treatment works and the use of graywater and must notify the state of such official action.



# Graywater Treatment Works and Use Prohibitions

- Permitting graywater treatment works and use in the City would require the City to develop, implement and maintain a local control program that complies with Regulation 86.
- This would require a significant investment in time, resources and staff to ensure compliance and protection of public health and the environment.
- City relies on sewer return flows for our water resources portfolio, which would require looking further into the impacts on water dedication amounts.
- Further concerns regarding cross contamination control and wastewater strength exist.



# Graywater Treatment Works and Use Prohibitions

- The City has evaluated graywater treatment works as a potential water conservation tool and determined that, at this time, its resources are better allocated to other water conservation measures.
- Staff will continue to monitor regulations and interest in graywater as a water conservation tool.
  - To date, staff is not aware of any request for the installation of graywater treatment works or use on a residential, commercial or industrial project in the City.



# Other Municipalities, Counties and Districts

Several municipalities, counties and Districts in Colorado have opted out of allowing graywater treatment works and use due to similar reasons. These municipalities, counties and Districts include, but are not limited to:

- City of Arvada
- Jefferson County
- City of Thornton
- Arapahoe County
- City of Aurora
- City of Boulder
- Eagle County
- City of Westminster
- Parker Water and Sanitation District
- City of Longmont



## Staff Recommendation

City staff recommend, at a future regular meeting, City Council adopt an ordinance prohibiting the installation of graywater treatment works and use of graywater in the City of Brighton City limits.



# Thank you for your time.

## Questions?

