

British Standard BS8525 Greywater systems

1 Sept 2009

Part 1 Code of practice.

This is the first British Standard Code of Practice for greywater reuse systems. The Standard comes in two parts Part 1 is a code of practice covering recommendations on the design installation and maintenance for systems supplying water for non-potable domestic uses. Part 2, which is still under development, will be a specification covering the method of test for treatment equipment.

Part 1 code of practice is now available in draft form for public comment (DPC) until 31st October 2009, after which time the comments will be reviewed before final publication.

It is recommended that member's water and wastewater teams review and comment on this document, the more comments that are received carry greater weight if changes are required. It is recommended that members view the document through BSI's British Standards Draft Review system at <http://drafts.bsigroup.com> where comments can be registered. Registration is quick and free taking less than a minute.

Highlighted below are areas of the document members may wish to consider and comment on. The Standard should be viewed in the context that it will be used by a suitably qualified or competent person.

Clause Numbers

- 3 Are the terms and definitions sufficiently clear and unambiguous?
- 4.2 With the potential for reduced flows, is there a need to consider the foul drain design (i.e self cleansing to avoid blockages), when retrofitting greywater systems into existing premises.
- 4.7 Does the clause cover the issues surrounding backflow prevention and protect the wholesome water quality regarding dead legs etc?
Should this clause specifically mention no direct cross-connections between mains water and any other water source?
- 4.9 Is there adequate information regarding aspects on overflow and backflow from combined and foul drainage systems?
- 4.11 The commentary references notification would this be better placed in clause 4.7, Back-up water supply?
Is the clause on Distribution pipework and fittings 4.11.2 sufficiently covering all requirements?
- 5.3 In addition to pipes and fittings detailed in clause 5.4.2, should above ground storage tanks and cisterns be labelled in accordance with Annex B?
- 5.5 Coloured dye is recommended to be used for testing the greywater system to check for cross-connection. Is this a suitable test and are there any issues when discharging to the public sewer?
- 5.6 Is there any additional information needed by the user that is not covered by this clause?
- 6 Are the water quality parameters sufficient to protect public health?
Table 5 gives guidance as to when intervention is needed to investigate the poor performance of a system, based on guideline values in table 3. Are there any parameters in table 3 when exceeding the guideline values by a

factor of 10 should lead to the suspension of use for the greywater system?

7 Should a visual check be made during maintenance, detailed in Table 6, of the water quality?

Are all aspects of the system covered for routine maintenance in Table 6?

Annex A Combining greywater with a rainwater harvesting systems (see Figures A1 & A2) is becoming a more popular way in overcoming the supply shortfall of rainwater, particularly in large multi-occupancy buildings such as flats, hotels etc. Current practice is to utilise one storage tank normally a below ground. When there is insufficient collected rainwater treated greywater will be called upon to make up the shortfall. Due to the probability of treated greywater being stored in this tank the overflow to discharge into the foul drain. In this configuration when there is excessive rainfall any surplus will be discharged into the foul drain. Would this be a satisfactory arrangement?

Annex B Should the labelling of tanks and cisterns above ground be included in addition to pipe, fittings and points of use?

Annex C Is there sufficient detail for the typical type of systems?

Annex D This annex details various legal references applicable. Does this annex add value to the Standard for the casual reader, if so is it sufficiently detailed or could it be omitted?

Annex E This annex covers general guidance as to when sampling might be needed and the general considerations required. Should this annex cover in simple terms the types of samples needed and which sampling methods would be appropriate, or is their sufficient detail?