

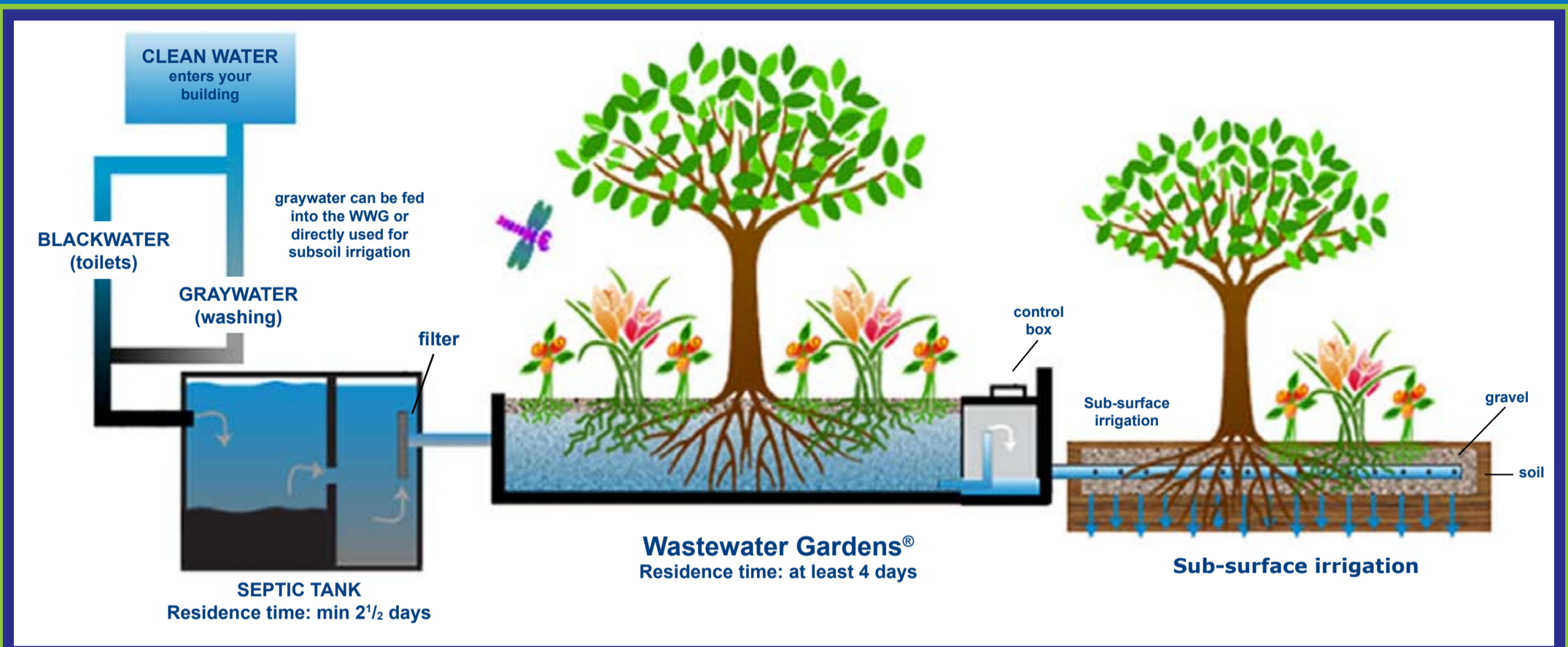
About Wastewater Gardens®

How does a Wastewater Gardens® system purify wastewater and conserve our fresh water resources?

Normally wastewater from your toilets (called blackwater) goes to your septic tank, and disappears into the ground below you. This pollutes your well water and groundwater (the water that flows below the earth's surface). Using rivers or water channels as toilets can be very dangerous for yourself and other bathers, especially children, as there are many diseases and infections that you can catch from this.

In a Wastewater Gardens® system, blackwater flows through a sealed (water tight) septic tank into a water-tight, plant-filled living water treatment system. The plants use the rich nutrients in the blackwater to grow. At the same time oxygen and microbes that are in the Wastewater Gardens® eliminate harmful bacteria, that could cause disease if untreated. After treatment, the water that comes out of the Wastewater Gardens® is clean enough to water your gardens.

The wastewater from washing and cleaning (called graywater) can be piped straight from your sinks, drained through a bed of gravel, and stored underground so there is no risk of direct contact. It can then be used directly to irrigate your gardens.



Why use Wastewater Gardens®?

- To eliminate the risk of diseases caused by contact with blackwater.
- They are low-cost, long-lasting, easy to maintain appropriate technology.
- They don't create bad odors, and mosquitoes don't breed in them.
- They can be made any size; for homes, clinics, schools, or communities.
- They work well with fresh water, salt water, or a combination of the two.
- To conserve water in dry areas through reusing water for irrigation.
- They are beautiful gardens that grow well, even in dry areas.
- The plants grown in a WWG are productive and healthy.

Our bodies are made up of more than 80% water!

We use water everyday for cooking, drinking, washing, growing food, and making almost everything we use. Clean fresh water (water that isn't full of salt like sea water, or polluted like sewage water and waste water) is one of the most precious resources we have. Without fresh water we couldn't live on this planet. Unfortunately there are big problems with fresh water in our world today because of pollution from people and industries. Many of the places that supply us with fresh water (like forests, rivers, and lakes) are disappearing or becoming polluted.

We need to conserve fresh water! How?

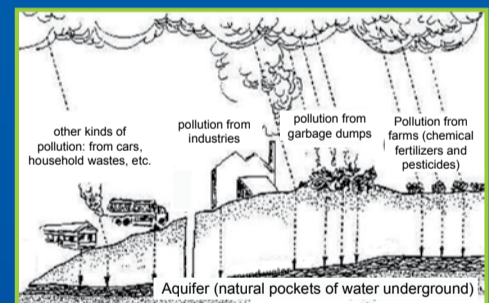
We can understand how precious our fresh water is and...

- Stop polluting rivers and oceans.
- Don't leave taps on when you are not using them.
- Fix broken taps as soon as they start leaking.
- Collect, store, and use rain water.
- Reuse water as much as possible.



What is wastewater?

Wastewater is water that has been contaminated by chemicals, human waste, or animal waste. This includes water that comes from toilets (blackwater), and water that has been used for bathing or washing things (graywater).



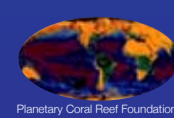
What can blackwater do to our environment?

It depends on how the blackwater is disposed of. If blackwater is stored in a septic tank that isn't sealed properly, it will seep into the ground and can contaminate well water and ground water. If blackwater is pumped into rivers or the ocean, it will eventually kill fish and other sea life, as well as causing human illness to those who come into contact with the water.

What can we do about our blackwater?

Blackwater needs to be treated before it flows back into the environment. Wastewater Gardens® purifies blackwater so it can be safely returned to nature. Doing this will help conserve precious fresh water resources.

Today, Wastewater Gardens® are purifying and conserving water in many countries all over the world. The Wastewater Gardens® system was originally designed by the Planetary Coral Reef Foundation (www.pcrf.org) and are constructed in Indonesia by IDEP Foundation.



To see pictures of Wastewater Gardens® all over the world, visit: www.idepfoundation.org