



Plumbing newsflash

Combination hand basin and cistern

Purpose

To advise that greywater generated from a hand basin into a combination cistern cannot be used to discharge the toilet unless it has been treated.

Background

The Department was recently advised that a number of combination hand basin and cistern units are being installed in residential premises throughout Queensland, contrary to current Queensland plumbing laws.

Legislation

Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002 (PDA)
Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003 (SPDR)
Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code (QPWC)

Interpretation

Combination hand basin and cistern

Despite some combination hand basin and cisterns having product certification, the installation of this unit is not permitted under the PDA. This is because, when installed, the greywater generated from the basin is not treated prior to being used to discharge the toilet.

Greywater used to discharge the toilet must be treated and meet the water standard required under the QPWC. If the greywater does not meet the required standard and is then used to discharge the toilet, it constitutes an offence under the PDA. Section 128PA of the PDA makes the homeowner responsible for ensuring that only appropriately treated greywater is used.

Offence about using greywater - section 128PA of the PDA

Under section 128PA of the PDA it is an offence for the owner of a premises in a sewered area to reuse greywater (other than kitchen greywater) from plumbing and drainage on the premises for washing vehicles, paths, exterior walls, discharging a toilet or as a cold water supply to the washing machine unless the water has been discharged to a greywater treatment plant, installed on the premises, and treated to the standard stated in the QPWC.

Tables T1A and T1B in the QPWC specify treatment standards for greywater as <10 Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), <10 Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and <10 Thermo-tolerant Organisms, before it can be used for the prescribed end uses as listed above.



Compliance

Where a council plumbing inspector has issued a compliance certificate for the installation of this combination hand basin and cistern council may need to consider taking enforcement action against the homeowner under section 116 of the PDA to bring the system to compliance.

Contact for further information

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