

## **Administrative Policy**

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**Policy Title:** 3-way Diverter Valves for use in Residential Gray Water Piping

**Applicable Code Sections:** 2018 International Residential Code P3002.3, P3005.1

**Objective:** To support an increased use of gray water irrigation for single family dwellings by allowing certain plumbing fittings that easily divert gray water flow either to the public sewer or to on-site irrigation.

**Background:** On October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the City of Tucson adopted the Residential Gray Water Ordinance requiring all new one- and two-family homes to separate gray water fixture drains from blackwater fixture drains, starting in June 2010. Since that time, nearly all new houses are equipped with at least one isolated gray water fixture drain. However, the gray water drains converge with the main building drain somewhere in the system to ultimately discharge into the public sewer system with the rest of the building plumbing. To divert graywater to landscaping, the existing drain line must be modified. Due to the lack of listed diverter valves available on the market for use in gray water piping, this policy allows the installation of valves used in pressurized swimming pool plumbing to be retrofitted into existing residences and installed in new construction.

**Policy:** Diverter valves intended for use in pressurized distribution system piping may also be used in gray water drain, waste, and vent (DWV) piping under the following conditions.

- Valves must be listed in accordance with NSF/ANSI 50.
- Each diverter valve shall serve only one plumbing fixture.
- The orientation of valve installation may not restrict the flow when the diverter is set to discharge to the public sewer. This may require adjusting the inlet of the valve so that flow passing through the valve does not change direction when the valve is set to discharge to the public sewer.
- Diverter valves shall be installed in an easily accessed location as close as possible to the gray water source fixture. An access panel, cabinet, trap door, or similar opening shall be provided to access the valve. When diverter valves are installed exterior to the building, a landscape box or similar enclosure shall be provided to protect and access the valve.
- The valve must have a removable section for cleaning. Placement of the valve may not restrict the removal of the valve cover.
- The diverter valve and each branch of piping connected to the valve must be permanently labeled to identify the source or direction of gray water flow. The valve shall clearly indicate the direction of flow in each position of the valve handle.
- Pipe sizing may not be reduced in diameter in the direction of flow. The size of the diverter valve must be as large as the upstream gray water piping.